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Lakeland begins vaccinating staff

Health system allotted about 150 doses in first shipment

By ALEXANDRA NEWMAN
HP Staff Writer

ST. JOSEPH — Spectrum Health Lakeland was to begin administering COVID-19 vaccines to its employees Wednesday evening, hospital officials said on Wednesday.

The Lakeland system was allotted about 150 doses in the first shipment of vaccine, out of the about 2,000 doses total the Spectrum Health system received, according to Dr. John Froggatt, an infectious disease specialist with several titles at Lakeland, including vice president of medical affairs.

"It's a big day for our county that we're finally able to start vaccination today," he said.

More details regarding who first received the vaccine will be released this morning, according to hospital officials.

In addition, a Facebook Live event will be held at 10 a.m. today on the Berrien County Health Department (BCHD) Facebook page, www.facebook.com/bchdmi. It will feature Dr. Loren Hamel, president of Spectrum Health Lakeland, and Nicki Britten, health officer for the BCHD, providing updates on COVID-19, including COVID-19 vaccinations, in Berrien County.

COVID numbers update

COVID-19 deaths and recoveries continue to mount in Berrien County, as the number of new cases starts to drop.

The county recorded four COVID-19 deaths on Tuesday and two on Wednesday. This brings the county's pandemic death toll to 141.

December is on track to be the deadliest month of the pandemic locally, with 32 deaths already being recorded this month. The worst month so far has been May, when Berrien recorded 34 COVID deaths.

Berrien County also added 308 recoveries over the two-day period, while just 135 new COVID-19 cases were reported.

This brought the number of active cases in the county down significantly, to about 3,547. Last Wednesday, the county was at about 3,939 active cases.

COVID hospitalizations at Spectrum Health Lakeland stayed steady at 65 both Tuesday and Wednesday this week. Last Wednesday, the hospital system had reported 60 COVID-19 patients admitted.

Van Buren County added two COVID-19 deaths over Tuesday and Wednesday, while Cass County recorded three.

That brings Van Buren County's death toll to 63, while Cass County is at 39.

New cases continue to slow in the two counties as well, with Van Buren County recording 72 new COVID-19 cases over the two-day period.

Cass County recorded 60 new cases over the two days.

Contact: anewman@TheHP.com, 932-0357, Twitter: @HPANewman

Photos by Don Campbell / HP staff

Santa "Jim" and Mrs. Claus wish children a Merry Christmas from their cars Tuesday night during a Santa Claus drive through event held at Coloma Township Hall.

Santa Claus came to town

Coloma's Drive Through Santa event is a big hit

By JULIE SWIDWA
HP Staff Writer

COLOMA — For a few hours Tuesday night, hundreds of children got to experience a little bit of "normal" as they took part in Coloma's Drive Through Santa event.

The event, organized by the Coloma Township Police Department, drew about 100 cars filled with children.

"I just want to personally say the Drive Through Santa was a hit," said Chief Wes Smigielski. "All the volunteers that came out did a great job and I thank them so much for helping out and toughing it out through the cold."

Cars lined the streets, winding their way to the Coloma Township Hall, where Santa and Mrs. Claus greeted the children from a safe distance, listening to the youngsters' Christmas wishes.

"For three hours I forgot the world is kind of a sloppy mess right now," said Officer Dan Stuglik, one of the organizers of the event. "Five-year-olds are a good example of how to be a human being during Christmas. This was a nice night."

Stuglik said that during a year filled with strange rules for children, like "Go to school in your living room without your friends," and "Don't hug your grandma," it was important to offer them a night of ordinary childhood.

"And I got a chance to see one of my favorite things – the face a kid makes when they catch their first glimpse of Santa," he said. "It's one of the most magical moments imaginable."

Santa "Jim," in a long-distance phone interview, said the night was magical for him, as well.

See **SANTA**, page A6

Kinley Milnickel, 8, of Coloma flashes a big smile as she talks to Santa and Mrs. Claus from her car Tuesday night during a Santa Claus drive through event held at Coloma Township Hall.

Cass ISD trustees recommend name change

Controversy surrounding Lewis Cass swayed board; vote planned in January

By LOUISE WREGE
HP Staff Writer

CASSOPOLIS — The Lewis Cass Intermediate School District will likely soon be known by a different name.

Trustees approved changing the name Wednesday and plan to vote on a new name in January. They discussed Prairie/Lake ISD as a new name, but first want to gather citizen input. Superintendent Brent Holcomb said they want the name to be geographically significant, rather than based on a person.

Once chosen, it is unknown when the new name can go into effect because name changes have to be approved by the State Board of Education, Holcomb said.

Trustees said that while Lewis Cass was an important person in Michigan's history, he was also instrumental in the removal of Native Americans from their land in the early 1800s and supported slavery to continue in the Southern states.

"We're a diverse community here in Cass County," Holcomb said after the meeting. "I think this is an opportunity to show some grace. We serve all kids from all origins. ... This is a big deal relative to some of the minority populations in our community."

Trustees formed a special committee to examine changing the ISD's name after Gov. Gretchen Whitmer renamed the state-owned Lewis Cass Building in Lansing over the summer. The name was changed to the Elliott-Larsen Building, to honor the legislators who sponsored the state's civil rights act in 1976.

Holcomb, who was on the six-member committee, said the decision to recommend a name change was unanimous.

See **ISD**, page A6

Close but not yet: Deal near on COVID-19 economic aid bill

By ANDREW TAYLOR
Associated Press

WASHINGTON — Congressional negotiators closed in Wednesday on a $900 billion COVID-19 economic relief package that would deliver additional help to businesses, $300 per week jobless checks, and $600 stimulus payments to most Americans. But there was no deal quite yet.

The long-delayed measure was coming together as Capitol Hill combatants finally fashioned difficult compromises, often at the expense of more ambitious Democratic wishes for the legislation, to complete the second major relief package of the pandemic.

A hoped-for announcement Wednesday failed to materialize as lawmakers across the spectrum hammered out details of the sprawling legislation and top negotiators continued to trade offers. But lawmakers briefed on the outlines of the aid bill freely shared them.

It's the first significant legislative response to the pandemic since the landmark CARES Act in March, which delivered $1.8 trillion in aid and more generous jobless benefits and direct payments to individuals. Since then, Democrats have repeatedly called for ambitious further federal steps to provide relief and battle the pandemic, while Republicans have sought to more fully reopen the economy and to avoid padding the government's $27 trillion debt.

See **AID**, page A6

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Tomorrow's Weather

High 39 Low 31

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Michigan House adds drunken driving to expungement program

By ANNA LIZ NICHOLS
Associated Press / Report for America

LANSING — People with drunken driving convictions would be added to an expungement program under a bill that was approved Wednesday in the Michigan House.

The legislation will go to the Senate.

First-time drunken driving offenses weren't part of an expungement law that was signed earlier this year by Gov. Gretchen Whitmer. Supporters say hundreds of thousands of people could benefit.

In Michigan, an expungement clears the public record of a conviction so it does not appear in a background check. Police still keep a non-public record, but people would not have to disclose their criminal past on job applications or other forms.

Sen. Ed McBroom said one dumb mistake such as drunken driving shouldn't impact a person for their rest of the life.

"Everyone knows someone who has struggled with alcohol dependency, and anyone who has supported a friend or family member who has step-by-step reclaimed their lives is keenly aware that they have done the hard work to earn a second chance," Chief Justice Bridget McCormack said earlier this month.

Mich. lawmakers OK bills to let college athletes be paid

By DAVID EGGERT
Associated Press

LANSING — Lawmakers on Wednesday gave final approval to bills that would clear the way for college athletes to be paid for the use of their names, images or likeness rights – putting Michigan on the cusp of becoming at least the fourth state with such a law.

In-state schools, the NCAA and athletic conferences could not block student-athletes from being compensated under a bill that Gov. Gretchen Whitmer is expected to sign. A second measure would no longer make it a crime for agents to enter into contracts with student-athletes.

The NCAA, pressured by states that started acting on their own, is drawing up new rules to let athletes become paid sponsors – able to earn money for endorsement deals, for appearances and for promoting products or events on social media accounts.

Michigan's legislation, approved 35-3 by the Senate, largely would take effect starting in 2023. California, Florida and Colorado also have enacted laws targeting the NCAA's ban on compensation for college athletes.

LOTTERIES

Wednesday drawings

Michigan
Classic Lotto 47
04-10-27-29-31-40
Poker Lotto
AH-2C-3C-6S-7S
Midday Daily 3
4-5-2
Midday Daily 4
8-2-3-7
Daily 3
6-8-0
Daily 4
0-3-3-8
Fantasy 5
02-10-20-23-33
Keno
02-08-12-13-18-23-26-27-28-36-38-50-51-57-59-61-66-68-73-74-78-80
Mega Millions jackpot
$310 million
Powerball jackpot
$287 million

Tuesday drawings

Indiana
Cash 5
01-26-35-37-38
Estimated jackpot
$619,000
Cash4Life
16-27-42-49-57, Cash Ball: 1
Quick Draw Midday
08-20-27-31-34-38-40-44-45-47-50-54-56-61-67-68-74-75-78-80, BE: 67
Daily Three-Midday
1-1-2, SB: 2
Daily Three-Evening
6-3-5, SB: 8
Daily Four-Midday
5-3-5-0, SB: 2
Daily Four-Evening
8-2-8-2, SB: 8
Quick Draw Evening
02-09-11-14-18-25-26-33-34-41-42-43-47-49-53-54-57-61-68-70, BE: 57
Mega Millions
01-10-18-20-46, Mega Ball: 15, Megaplier: 2

Illinois
LuckyDay Lotto Midday
17-26-28-39-43
Estimated jackpot
$150,000
Pick Three-Midday
4-3-8, Fireball: 2
Pick Three-Evening
3-0-1, Fireball: 8
Pick Four-Midday
4-2-2-4, Fireball: 5
Pick Four-Evening
9-4-4-1, Fireball: 7
Lucky Day Lotto
05-14-25-31-39

– The Associated Press

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News tip
Ext. 293
localnews@TheHP.com

Features
Ext. 225
focus@TheHP.com

Letters to the Editor
Ext. 295
letters@TheHP.com

Sports
Ext. 294, or 429-1294
sports@TheHP.com

Obituaries
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The Herald-Palladium

P.O. Box 128 • 3450 Hollywood Road • St. Joseph, MI 49085
Volume 152, Number 259

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The Herald-Palladium is printed for your convenience with low-ruboff soy ink and with newsprint containing recycled paper.

David Holgate Publisher
Dave Brown Managing Editor
Sara Horton Advertising Director
Julie Simpleman Circulation Director
Jenn Mann Business Manager

The Herald-Palladium is published daily, Mondays through Saturdays, except for USPS holidays, at 3450 Hollywood Road, St. Joseph, MI and is a consolidation of The Herald-Press and The News-Palladium. Periodicals Mail postage paid at St. Joseph, MI (USPS 387-440). Postmaster: Send change of address to P.O. Box 128, St. Joseph, MI 49085. Member of The Associated Press.

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Flint water settlement borrowing plan approved by lawmakers

By DAVID EGGERT
Associated Press

Ryan Garza

Water analysis test kits for Flint residents to pick up for lead testing in their drinking water are set out on a table at Flint Fire Department Station No. 1 as members of the U.S. Army National Guard 125th Infantry Battalion wait to help residents on Jan. 18, 2016.

LANSING — Michigan legislators on Wednesday finalized a plan to borrow $600 million to finance the state's proposed settlement with the residents of Flint, whose water was contaminated with elevated levels of the neurotoxin lead.

The legislation received House approval on 105-3 and 104-4 votes and will be signed by Democratic Gov. Gretchen Whitmer. It would authorize a loan from a state economic development fund, costing more than $1 billion to repay over 30 years – $35 million annually. The legal settlement is believed to be the state government's largest ever, pending approval from a federal judge.

Other defendants contributing to the $641 million deal include the city of Flint and McLaren Flint Hospital, which each will pay $20 million, and Rowe Professional Services Co., an environmental consulting company that will pay $1.25 million.

Flint switched its drinking water source in 2014 from Detroit's system to the Flint River in a money-saving move while under supervision of a state manager following Republican then-Gov. Rick Snyder's declaration of a financial emergency. City workers followed state environmental officials' advice not to use anti-corrosive additives. Without those treatments, water from the river scraped lead from aging pipes and fixtures, contaminating tap water.

Elevated levels of lead were detected in children, and at least 12 people died in a Legionnaires' disease outbreak that experts suspected was linked to the improperly treated water.

"A settlement does not turn back the clock and it does not right these grave wrongs. No amount of money can do that," said one of the bill sponsors, Senate Democratic Leader Jim Ananich of Flint. "However, it is a powerful acknowledgment of the real harm done to us. ... I am glad and relieved to see this bill cross the finish line in the Legislature, and I expect the governor to take swift action when it reaches her desk."

Senate hearing elevates Trump's baseless claims of election fraud

By CHRISTINA A. CASSIDY and MARY CLARE JALONICK
Associated Press

Greg Nash / Pool via AP

Christopher Krebs, former director of the Cybersecurity and Infrastructure Security Agency, elbow bumps Senate Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs Committee Chairman Ron Johnson, R-Wis., after a hearing to discuss election security and the 2020 election process on Wednesday on Capitol Hill in Washington.

WASHINGTON — Republican senators on Wednesday further perpetuated President Donald Trump's baseless claims of widespread voter fraud, two days after Democrat Joe Biden's victory was sealed by the Electoral College.

Lawmakers bickered heatedly at times during a committee hearing as Democrats pushed back against the unfounded allegations and a former federal cybersecurity official who oversaw election security said continued attempts to undermine confidence in the process were corrosive to democracy.

The session, held by the Senate Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs Committee over Democratic protests, elevated the groundless claims of fraud to the highest levels of government and provided two of Trump's lawyers with one more public opportunity to make the false assertions after repeatedly losing in court.

The hearing mimicked those held in some battleground states with local lawmakers, where Trump's personal attorney Rudy Giuliani led some Republicans in airing their election grievances without any proof. Those hearings were held after consistent legal defeats.

GOP Sen. Ron Johnson of Wisconsin, the committee chairman and one of Trump's fiercest defenders, said his goal was to have a bipartisan hearing to examine the election. But he repeated Trump's assertions without evidence and focused heavily on the claims being made by the president's team.

There was no testimony from state or local election officials who conducted extensive checks to ensure the accuracy of the election before certifying the results. Those officials have said there was no indication of any widespread fraud.

Democrats did solicit the testimony of Christopher Krebs, who led the U.S. Cybersecurity and Infrastructure Security Agency until he was fired by Trump in a Nov. 17 tweet. Under Krebs, the agency operated a "rumor control" webpage that debunked some of the conspiracy theories being perpetuated by Trump and his allies.

Under questioning, Krebs acknowledged that some of his staff had been approached about making changes to the webpage but none was made and he said voting systems were secure in the 2020 election.

"I'm seeing these reports, that are factually inaccurate, continue to be promoted," Krebs said. "We have to stop this. It's undermining confidence in democracy."

U.S. angling to secure more of Pfizer's vaccine

By RICARDO ALONSO-ZALDIVAR
Associated Press

Darron Cummings / AP

Alex Azar, Health and Human Services Secretary, speaks during a round table discussion at Catalent Biologics on Tuesday in Bloomington, Ind.

WASHINGTON — U.S. officials say they're actively negotiating for additional purchases of Pfizer's coronavirus vaccine after passing up a chance to lock in a contract this summer since it was still unclear how well the shots would work.

Health and Human Services Secretary Alex Azar and special adviser Dr. Moncef Slaoui also told reporters Wednesday that Pfizer had been unable to commit to a firm delivery date. Azar called that "the core issue."

There was no immediate comment from the company, whose CEO Albert Bourla told CNN this week it is "working very collaboratively" with the government to deliver additional vaccine through the federal Operation Warp Speed. That's a White House-backed, taxpayer-funded effort to quickly develop coronavirus vaccines and treatments.

The Trump administration has come under scathing criticism from congressional Democrats after news leaked out last week about the foregone vaccine opportunity.

"We are concerned the failure to secure an adequate supply of vaccines will needlessly prolong the COVID-19 pandemic in this country, causing further loss of life and economic devastation," a group of senators led by Patty Murray of Washington and Ron Wyden of Oregon wrote HHS. "We fear this is yet another instance in which the Trump administration's failure to develop a comprehensive national vaccines plan in a timely manner could jeopardize efforts to get people vaccinated and ultimately end this pandemic."

Azar sought to rebut that concern Wednesday, saying that pending contracts with a number of manufacturers will ensure enough vaccine for all Americans by around the middle of next year. A second vaccine from Moderna appears headed for Food and Drug Administration approval within days, and more vaccine candidates are advancing through clinical trials.

But the one from Pfizer and German pharmaceutical BioNTech was first into the arms of Americans, raising hopes of taming a pandemic that has killed more than 300,000 people in the U.S. and hobbled much of the national economy. Health care workers and nursing home residents top the list as local TV stations across the country are broadcasting scenes of the first vaccinations. Some polls show skepticism about getting vaccinated may be easing.

After early failures with testing, Trump administration officials are hoping to write a very different ending with vaccines. Operation Warp Speed has financed the development, manufacture and distribution of millions of doses, with the goal of providing a free vaccine to any American who wants one.

Pfizer was not as closely involved with Operation Warp Speed as other manufacturers, preferring to retain control over its own development and manufacturing. But the government did enter into a contract to buy 100 million doses of the Pfizer-BioNTech vaccine, the first of which were shipped this week.

At issue is the purchase of another 100 million doses for delivery as early as the middle of next year.

"We are engaged in active negotiations," said Azar.

Slaoui, a world-renowned vaccine scientist who is helping lead the federal effort, said the goal all along was to have several promising vaccines in development, with taxpayers assuming the financial risk if any given vaccine failed to secure FDA approval.

"We built a portfolio of vaccines to ensure one of them at least would make it to the finish line," he said.

hp LOCAL & STATE

Benton Twp. officials get 3 percent pay raise

By TONY WITTKOWSKI
HP Staff Writer

BENTON TOWNSHIP — Benton Township trustees will get a 3 percent bump in their paychecks next year.

At Tuesday's meeting, the board agreed to a 3 percent pay increase for its trustees, supervisor, clerk and treasurer. The increase is in line with the increase given to regular municipal employees.

This is the second consecutive year the board agreed to a 3 percent increase in salaries, compensation and per diem.

Supervisor Cathy Yates will see her salary rise from $59,000 to $60,770 in 2021.

Yates previously received a salary increase from $30,103 to $59,000, when the board voted in September to make the supervisor position full time. The pay increase came with additional responsibilities after the township eliminated the vacant superintendent position.

In doing so, the superintendent's duties were divided between the supervisor, clerk and treasurer.

Clerk Carolyn Phillips, who was earning $58,000 a year, will now make $59,740 in 2021. The pay increase does not include election-related overtime.

Treasurer Debbie Boothby, who was making $55,000 a year, will now earn $56,650 in 2021.

Trustees, who were getting $103 per meeting this year, will now be paid $106 in per diem next year.

Prior to approval, Trustee Linda Scarbrough asked if this would be the only raise for everyone in the next calendar year.

"Unless someone requests changes," Phillips said. "It would come back to the board for approval. If they requested a decrease then it wouldn't need board approval."

Last year the board agreed to a 3 percent increase after years of 2 percent increase for municipal workers.

The next board meeting is at 5:30 p.m. on Jan. 5.

Contact: twittkowski@TheHP.com, 932-0358, Twitter: @TonyWittkowski

ART IN NATURE

Don Campbell / HP staff

A lone leaf lies in a pool of frozen water and leaves Wednesday afternoon in St. Joseph.

Whirlpool pledges support for diversity initiative

By HP STAFF

BENTON HARBOR — Whirlpool Corp. CEO and Chairman Marc Bitzer is among several business leaders who is working nationwide to being more diversity to the workplace.

Bitzer was recently announced to be among a coalition of executives for OneTen – an organization with the mission to train, hire and advance one million Black Americans over the next decade to sustainable jobs with opportunities for advancement.

Launched with 38 other company CEOs, Bitzer and Whirlpool have pledged to work with partner organizations to improve workplace inclusivity practices and provide opportunities for Black Americans.

Bitzer said these actions align with the Benton Harbor appliance maker's commitment to fostering a diverse culture where "employees feel welcomed, respected, valued and heard."

"Inclusion and diversity has always been a top priority for us as a company, and I am honored to join my peers at other companies in this incredible effort focused on removing structural barriers and driving real results," Bitzer said in a news release. "We have continually worked to create an engaging and inclusive environment across our organization, and we look forward to continuing to drive our core values and providing opportunities for all of our employees to succeed."

This isn't the first diversity initiative the company has undertaken.

Earlier this year, the company announced a multi-year action plan to drive sustainable, positive impact for current and future Black colleagues and its local community – which is expected to help underrepresented groups within the company.

Additionally, in 2019, Whirlpool established its annual Global Inclusion Week, a program designed to engage employees and teach them about the importance and benefits of inclusion and diversity in the workplace.

Whirlpool has long had employee resource groups, which includes the FOCUS Network – that supports Black employees – and the Whirlpool Women's Network – which attracts and retain a diverse workforce and create an inclusive workplace.

The company is also a member of Catalyst CEO Champions for Change, which pledges to advance more women into all levels of leadership.

In 2020, Whirlpool was named to the 2020 Diversity Best Practices Inclusion Index and scored a perfect 100 on the 2020 Corporate Equality Index.

South Haven leaders allow outdoor heaters at downtown restaurants

By BECKY KARK
For The Herald-Palladium

SOUTH HAVEN — If you've walked by Taste restaurant in downtown South Haven lately you've probably noticed the pair of tall decorative heaters on the patio.

It's all part of local restaurant owners' efforts to provide the most comfortable seating for diners who can no longer eat inside restaurants due to restrictions to stop the spread of coronavirus.

Taste is among four downtown restaurants that can now add heaters and fans to their outdoor dining areas, after the South Haven City Council voted earlier this month to allow it. The other eateries are Black River Tavern, Su Casa Restaurante and the proposed New Holland Brewing Company.

"Since dining occupancy is being pushed to outdoors, this (allowing for use of heaters and fans) will be more comfortable for people," City Manager Kate Hosier said.

Previously, the city's outdoor dining agreements with downtown restaurants, did not allow heaters and fans to be used. However, with the hardships dining establishments have faced this year because of COVID-19 restrictions, the city's Downtown Development Authority recommended that appliances be allowed, as long as they comply with safety requirements.

Contributed photo / Tom Renner

The outdoor dining area at Taste Restaurant in downtown South Haven now has two heaters to provide warmth, as diners are forced outdoors.

"Outdoor heaters and fans must be approved by the fire marshal and the licensees must adhere to all guidelines and restrictions placed on that approval," Hosier said.

While downtown restaurant owners will now be allowed to use outside heaters, a brewery on the eastern edge of South Haven has developed even more ambitious plans.

Three Blondes Brewing offers a variety of outdoor dining options on its large, spacious patio at the corner of Phoenix Road and 71-1/2 Street.

The brewery features two geodesic domes, also known as igloos, and a 10-foot by 17-foot enclosed car port with a high-top table. There are also picnic tables with heaters, along with several fire pits.

Although Three Blondes began using the igloos and other structures last year, they have come in quite handy to cope with this year's restrictions on indoor dining.

Lake Michigan College delays start of next semester

New start date is Jan. 19

By HP STAFF

BENTON HARBOR — Lake Michigan College will delay the start of its spring semester to give students extra time to register for classes and help prevent post-holiday spread of COVID-19, according to a news release.

Classes were originally scheduled to begin Monday, Jan. 11, and will now begin Tuesday, Jan. 19.

"We want to give new and continuing students time to enjoy the holidays, and get enrolled for the spring semester," LMC President Dr. Trevor Kubatzke said in the release. "We know that after Thanksgiving, local COVID-19 rates began to rise, and this new start date allows for employees and students to remain off-campus for an adequate amount of time after holiday travel and family gatherings."

The delayed start also accommodates a rush of new applicants under the new Futures for Frontliners scholarship. So far, more than 200 LMC students have been accepted into the program that offers free tuition to Michiganders who worked in essential industries at the height of the state shutdown. Essential workers in Michigan without a college degree who worked at least half-time in 11 of 13 weeks from April 1 through June 30 are eligible for the scholarship, but the deadline to apply is Dec. 31. To learn more about Futures for Frontliners at LMC, visit lakemichigancollege.edu/frontliners, or call 269-927-6596.

LMC will continue classes through its scheduled spring break of March 1-7. The college will be open to students but closed to the public.

Registration for the spring 2021 semester is now open. To apply for free for the spring semester, visit www.lakemichigancollege.edu/admissions.

The Herald-Palladium Editorial Board: DAVID HOLGATE Publisher DAVE BROWN Managing Editor DALE BREWER Local News Editor KATIE KRAWCZAK Design Editor

The pandemic's silver linings

Kathleen Parker

Trying to find a silver lining in the pandemic while it's still raging may be a fool's errand, but evidence abounds that the curse of the coronavirus has had some positive effects on us, both individually and collectively.

While we can hardly believe what's happened – or that we're still facing shutdowns and even more isolation – we're still mostly sane and, with stupefying exceptions, largely responding responsibly. The more fortunate among us can still walk outside (with care) and adapt to the requirements of safety by social distancing and avoiding crowds or indoor gatherings. This won't last forever, we tell ourselves, as we mask up and scrub our hands yet again.

In between these rituals, we've made other adjustments, conscious and unconscious, that may last much longer than the virus and serve us well into the future. Consciously, we take extra precautions and try to think through how our actions might affect others; unconsciously, we're absorbing old lessons of survival that have lain dormant for a century or so. Based on observation and anecdote, it seems we're becoming more empathic and caring.

Perhaps it's the season. Or maybe some behavioral anthropologist will interpret these new strains of altruism as selfish constructs geared toward a greater likelihood of reciprocity and therefore survival. But I remain satisfied that we've become less absorbed with things that are tangential to the qualities deemed essential to our humanness and more attuned to what I call deathbed issues.

As we're forced to consider our mortality, prematurely for so many, what thoughts occupy our minds? Not work, I'm guessing, but family and friends, dreams unrealized, legacies achieved and left undone and, cutting to the core, missed opportunities to spend time with those we love. Damn the clock.

As brutal irony would have it, these realizations occur most readily when we can least act upon them. I'd like to visit my elder cousins, but fear that underlying health conditions make this untenable. Newly arrived babies in my extended family likely won't know their eccentric great-aunt during their infancy, nor I one of life's greatest sensory pleasures – the smell of a baby's head. But none of these relatively minor deprivations compare to the horror of a loved one quarantined in a hospital and dying alone.

Zoom and social media are thin gruel for a nation starved for affection. When I eventually shed this straitjacket of self-restraint, I intend to hug everyone I see whether I know them or not. I'm so oxytocin-starved, I'd trade hugs with a grizzly bear right about now.

On the lighter side of things, several of my friends report almost gleefully that they've let their hair go gray. "It's so liberating," said one. "I'll never get color again," said another. Such considerations may seem trivial in the context of a pandemic, but longer conversations with dozens of women have revealed strands of deeper reflection and self-awareness. Giving up vanity has made space for other priorities.

Social media is filled with people proffering home-cooked meals, homemade treats and gifts, to say nothing of the many pets who are clearly happier because their humans are working from home. We're finding time to deliver a meal to a neighbor and otherwise becoming more self-sufficient as the pandemic discourages house calls from people who know how to handle a wrench.

There are downsides, too, of course. After 33 years of marriage – and working from home together – The Husband and I discovered the fine art of bickering, which we tackled with unusual flair and gimlet-eyed precision. I'm sure we're not alone. Netflix, for which we thank God, provided a solution.

But for "The Crown," "The Queen's Gambit" and HBO's "The Undoing," among others, entertainment has failed us. Even our beloved comedians have been rendered humorless and ordinary by the pandemic. Or should I say authentic? Without a live audience, and some barely bothering to groom themselves or get dressed, tuning in has been a little like watching stand-up at an overpass encampment.

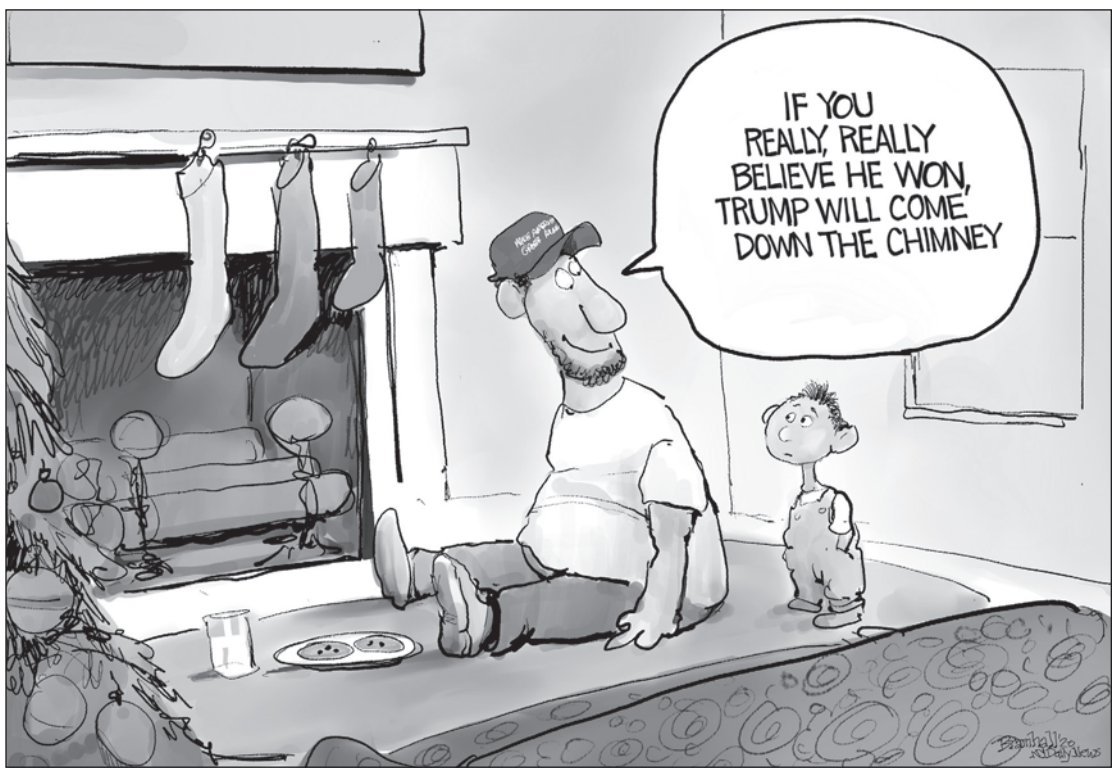
A recent Vanity Fair profile of Stephen Colbert brought home the equalizing effects of the coronavirus. After shooting "The Late Show With Stephen Colbert" from his Charleston, South Carolina, home, with his wife and children as an ad hoc crew, he would collapse on his couch and say, "I have no idea how to keep doing this." His wife, Evelyn McGee, told him: "You'll figure it out."

We really are all in this together, trying to keep doing this, trying to figure it out. And we will. Vaccines will help. A clean slate and a new president will provide a psychological boost. Eventually, the virus will become less prevalent and we'll breathe freely again. When that time comes, my sense is that for a while, at least, we'll hurry less, reach out more, honk less and yield more – and greet each day with greater gratitude than we did before. If that's not a silver lining, it's something.

Kathleen Parker is a columnist for The Washington Post.

'Misinformation' and the 2020 vote

Byron York



Looking at reporting and discussion of the 2020 presidential campaign, has any word been misused as often as "misinformation"? In much political debate, it was used to mean "information I don't like," rather than something that was provably false. That confusion extends to a new survey of American attitudes done by Gallup and the John S. and James L. Knight Foundation. The survey questioned 2,752 respondents and was conducted in mid-November.

Gallup found that 64 percent of Americans believe they were subjected to more "misinformation" in the 2020 campaign than in earlier campaigns. That number included 52 percent of Democrats, 66 percent of independents and 79 percent of Republicans. "Majorities of those who say they were exposed to misinformation this election year believe they were exposed to it on social media and cable TV news," the study says. "This finding is in light of the fact that major internet companies handled misinformation differently in the run-up to the election and afterward by enacting measures to label false information – something they largely did not do before this year."

The surveyors found some common ground between the political parties but also major differences. Start with where people believe "misinformation" is coming from. Gallup asked, "Where do you think you were exposed to misinformation about the election this year?" Everyone – Democrats, independents, Republicans – pointed to Facebook. But Facebook was mostly an aggregator of other media reports. And there were big differences between the parties about the original sources of "misinformation."

Forty-four percent of Democrats said "misinformation" came from cable TV news – by that, they mostly meant Fox News – while a larger number, 77 percent, of Republicans pointed to cable TV as the source of "misinformation." By that, they meant CNN and MSNBC. When it comes to traditional broadcast news – ABC/CBS/NBC – only 21 percent of Democrats saw that as a source of "misinformation," while 81 percent of Republicans did. That's a big difference.

And then there were the national newspapers. Only 10 percent of Democrats pointed to the big papers – The New York Times and The Washington Post – as sources of "misinformation," while 57 percent of Republicans did.

The results are clear: Democrats believe "misinformation" is coming from the deepest recesses of Facebook and Twitter, with an assist from Fox News, while Republicans believe it is coming from ABC, CBS, CNN, MSNBC, NBC, The Washington Post and The New York Times.

There's more. Remember how Facebook and Twitter clamped down on the Hunter Biden laptop story? Twitter even shut down the New York Post's account. What about that? Was that "misinformation"? It appears the Biden material that was published was accurate, even though Democrats and their allies in the media did not want to see it.

Gallup's question related to internet censorship produced the most striking party disparity in the entire poll.

The first problem was the question: "Do you think major internet companies went too far, were about right, or did not go far enough in trying to prevent the spread of false information about the election on their websites and apps?" The problem here was the phrase "false information." Were the emails on the Hunter Biden laptop "false information"? Certainly not the parts that were verified by some recipients and are currently the subject of a federal criminal investigation. So it is entirely reasonable to think that the big social media companies clamped down on accurate information in the Hunter Biden case.

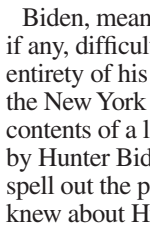
Nevertheless, in response to Gallup's question, just 2 percent of Democrats said the social media companies went too far, while 66 percent of Republicans said they went too far. That is a huge, huge difference. On the other end, 60 percent of Democrats said the companies did not go far enough, while just 23 percent of Republicans said they did not go far enough.

Those two numbers undoubtedly reflect different things. Democrats would have been happy had there never been any mention of Hunter Biden at all – that's their idea of "misinformation." But Republicans have seen four years of false reports about President Trump colluding with Russia, about him being a Russian asset, about a pee tape and a dossier, and much, much more. They've seen "misinformation" in all of those news sources – ABC/CBS/CNN/MSNBC/NBC/WashingtonPost/NewYorkTimes – that Democrats trust. The new poll tells us a little about American attitudes toward the media and "misinformation." But it tells us a lot about Republicans and Democrats and their dramatically divergent conceptions of what "misinformation" is.

Byron York is a columnist for The Washington Examiner.

Revenge of the lapdogs

Ben Shapiro



For four years, we heard that President Donald Trump is a threat to freedom of the press. The Washington Post signaled its own faux bravery by adopting the slogan "Democracy Dies in Darkness" at the top of its masthead. CNN began running commercials about facts being facts, and apples being apples rather than bananas (unless, presumably, those apples identify as bananas). The New York Times championed its own supposed stunning intrepidity in covering the Trump administration.

Those four years followed eight years during which the sitting president of the United States, Barack Obama, treated the press as lapdogs. He fed them occasional treats; they licked his hand. He occasionally disciplined them; they learned silence. He asked them to bark on cue; they did. During the Obama era, scandals went underreported; egregious seizures of power were portrayed as inevitable byproducts of Republican intransigence; and Obama's political opponents were treated as deplorable remnants of historic American bigotry.

With the elevation of Joe Biden as president-elect, prepare for some hard-hitting deja vu.

To be fair, the extent of the media's lapdogging for Biden became clear throughout the election cycle. President Donald Trump was presented as the single-greatest factor in the rise of COVID around the nation. Barrels of ink were spilled over his supposed support for white supremacy. Reams of paper were wasted claiming that Trump presented a threat to the integrity of the election itself.

Biden, meanwhile, answered few, if any, difficult questions during the entirety of his campaign. In fact, when the New York Post reported on the contents of a laptop purportedly owned by Hunter Biden – emails and texts that spell out the possibility that Joe Biden knew about Hunter's nefarious global business activities trading on the Biden name – the media immediately worked to shut down the story. NPR announced it wouldn't cover the story, with managing editor Terence Samuel stating, "We don't want to waste our time on stories that are not really stories, and we don't want to waste our listeners' and readers' time on stories that are just pure distraction." Social media quickly came to heel, with Twitter banning the Post's account for weeks and Facebook announcing it would suppress distribution of the story.

Just a few weeks after the election, news broke that Hunter Biden had been under some form of federal investigation since 2018. Now the media see fit to cover Hunter's business activities – but only from the angle that his activities may provide some sort of challenge for his father's administration.

Meanwhile, the establishment media rush to defend Jill Biden from the supposedly cruel predations of a Wall Street Journal op-ed columnist who noted – correctly – that she should stop using the title "doctor," since she has an Ed.D., a doctorate in education, from the University of Delaware. That rather uncontroversial notion was met with a paroxysm of rage from the usual media suspects, many of whom deemed it misogynist.

It's no wonder that after Joe Biden's Electoral College victory speech, the man himself sneered at Fox News reporter Peter Doocy for asking him about Hunter. "Thanks for the congratulations," said the supposedly avuncular Biden sarcastically. "Appreciate it."

It wasn't Doocy's job to congratulate Biden. It was his job to ask Biden tough questions. But Biden could be forgiven for thinking otherwise. After all, the media have spent years demonstrating that they represent the public relations wing of the Democratic Party, rather than acting as the staunch guardians of objective truth they purport to be.

Ben Shapiro is editor-in-chief of DailyWire.com.

ANOTHER OPINION

COVID-19 vaccine is triumph for Michigan

The long-awaited COVID-19 vaccine is now heading across the country and beyond from Pfizer headquarters right here in Michigan and offering frontline workers and at-risk individuals a shield against the virus. This is something all Michigan residents can take pride in, and it's a much-needed shot of good news.

Thanks to the unprecedented partnership between the federal government and drug makers, the two-stage vaccine is the country's best hope of slowing the spread of COVID and getting us back to normal life.

Some, however, are worried that the vaccine has been rushed and isn't safe. But those with doubts need to listen to what health officials are saying and then get in line for the vaccine once it's more widely available.

President Donald Trump has been constantly excoriated for his handling of the coronavirus response, but his administration's goal to deliver 300 million doses of a vaccine by January 2021 through "Operation Warp Speed" is on the way to being fulfilled.

Trump and his administration should get credit for working in conjunction with private companies to bring a vaccine to the public in just 10 months – the previous record was four years for the mumps inoculation.

This summer the federal government promised to buy millions of doses from Pfizer and other pharmaceutical companies and pledged billions of dollars in funding along the way.

The government similarly committed to buying 100 million doses of the upcoming Moderna vaccine, and pledged up to $1.5 billion in funding to scale up manufacturing.

We applaud the brilliant scientists at Pfizer for surmounting the challenging development process and completing the rigorous testing phases necessary to prove the safety and efficacy of the vaccine to the FDA.

After an independent evaluation by scientific and public health experts at the FDA, the agency last week issued an emergency use authorization for Pfizer's vaccine.

"With science guiding our decision-making, the available safety and effectiveness data support the authorization of the Pfizer-BioNTech COVID-19 Vaccine because the vaccine's known and potential benefits clearly outweigh its known and potential risks," said Dr. Peter Marks, the director of the FDA's Center for Biologics Evaluation and Research, in a statement.

The FDA evaluated the continuing randomized international study and found the Pfizer vaccine is 95 percent effective.

While it's not a full-fledged licensure, the approval given to Pfizer's vaccine signals the nation's top career scientists and public health experts are confident the inoculation is safe and effective.

Whatever your political persuasion, trust the hard work of all the professionals, including many in Michigan, who have worked tirelessly to save lives. Get the vaccine when it becomes available.

– The Detroit News

Rules eased for water from showerheads, a Trump pet peeve

By DEB RIECHMANN
Associated Press

WASHINGTON — The Trump administration has relaxed a regulation restricting water flow from showerheads, a pet peeve of President Donald Trump, who complained that he wanted more water to make his hair "perfect."

Since 1992, federal law has dictated that showerheads shouldn't spew more than 2.5 gallons of water a minute. As newer shower fixtures came out with multiple nozzles, the Obama administration updated the ruling, stating that 2.5 gallons was still the limit regardless of how many nozzles were running. The new ruling, issued on Tuesday, now says each showerhead can emit 2.5 gallons a minute.

"So showerheads – you take a shower, the water doesn't come out," Trump said last summer. "You want to wash your hands? The water doesn't come out. So what do you do? You just stand there longer or you take a shower longer? Because my hair – I don't know about you, but it has to be perfect. Perfect."

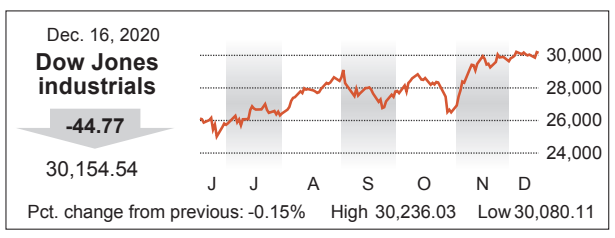
Also this week, the Energy Department issued a ruling that sets no limits on energy or water use for new washers and dryers with short cycle times in their "normal" setting. The rule sets up separate product classifications for residential clothes washers and dryers with cycle times of fewer than 30 minutes and 45 minutes for front-loading washers.

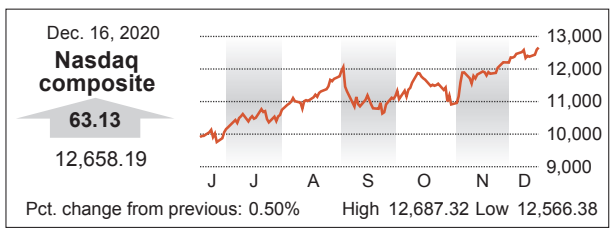
The Energy Department said the rule on washers and dryers lets manufacturers offer new products that meet consumer demand for products with shorter cycle times. Consumer advocates had a different response.

"With millions of washers and dryers sold in the United States every year, the rule announced today could lead to higher utility bills and additional carbon emissions from powering them," said the Natural Resources Defense Council. "It also comes at a time when areas of the country are increasingly subject to extended droughts and can't afford to waste water through unnecessary regulatory loopholes like the one just created by DOE."

Water flows from a showerhead in Portland, Ore., in 2020. The Trump administration on Wednesday relaxed a regulation restricting water flow from showerheads.
Jenny Kane / AP

MARKETS





Amer Elec Power AEP
$82.83 **-1.46 -1.7%**
▼ **4-wk.** -1.5% ▼ **YTD** -12.4%

Whirlpool WHR
$187.09 **-1.54 -.8%**
▼ **4-wk.** -3.0% ▲ **YTD** +26.8%

LocalStocks

NAME	TICKER	52-WK RANGE LO	HI	◇CLOSE	CHG	%CHG	WK	MO	QTR
AT&T Inc	T	26.08	39.55	30.29	-.29	-0.9	▼	▲	▲
AEP	AEP	65.14	104.97	82.83	-1.46	-1.7	▲	▼	▲
Apple Inc s	AAPL	53.15	137.98	127.81	-.07	-0.1	▲	▲	▲
AutoZone	AZO	684.91	1267.93	1190.50	+11.13	+0.9	▲	▲	▲
BP PLC	BP	14.74	40.08	21.83	-.11	-0.5	▼	▲	▲
CMS Eng	CMS	46.03	69.12	59.25	-.75	-1.3	▼	▼	▼
CocaCola	KO	36.27	60.07	53.06	-.78	-1.4	▼	▲	▲
Comcast	CMCSA	31.71	52.49	51.43	-.08	-0.2	▲	▲	▲
Deere	DE	106.14	265.87	261.12	-.87	-0.3	▲	▲	▲
Disney	DIS	79.07	179.45	173.12	-.82	-0.5	▼	▲	▲
DollarTree	DLTR	60.20	114.32	112.85	+2.81	+2.6	▲	▲	▲
ExxonMbl	XOM	30.11	71.37	43.70	+.66	+1.5	▼	▲	▲
FifthThird	FITB	11.10	31.61	27.25	+.16	+0.6	▼	▲	▲
1stSource	SRCE	26.07	53.42	40.32	-.45	-1.1	▲	▲	▲
FordM	F	3.96	9.58	9.04	-.11	-1.2	▲	▲	▲
GenElec	GE	5.48	13.26	10.93	-.18	-1.6	▼	▲	▲
HomeDp	HD	140.63	292.95	269.59	+1.61	+0.6	▲	▼	▼
HorizBcp	HBNC	7.42	19.48	15.79	+.14	+0.9	▲	▲	▲
HuntBncsh	HBAN	6.82	15.60	12.52	-.07	-0.6	▼	▲	▲
IDEX	IEX	104.56	199.50	195.39	-1.01	-0.5	▲	▼	▲
IBM	IBM	90.56	158.75	125.55	-.38	-0.3	▲	▲	▲
JPMorgCh	JPM	76.91	141.10	120.67	+.35	+0.3	▲	▲	▲
JohnJn	JNJ	109.16	157.00	149.67	-.90	-0.6	▼	▲	▲
Lowes	LOW	60.00	180.67	163.20	-.13	-0.1	▲	▲	▼
McDnlds	MCD	124.23	231.91	213.80	-1.06	-0.5	▲	▼	▼
Microsoft	MSFT	132.52	232.86	219.28	+5.15	+2.4	▲	▲	▲
MillerHer	MLHR	14.39	49.88	40.55	+.22	+0.5	▲	▲	▲
Perrigo	PRGO	40.01	63.86	47.41	-.96	-2.0	▼	▼	▲
Pfizer	PFE	27.88	43.08	37.84	-.87	-2.2	▼	▲	▲
ProctGam	PG	94.34	146.92	137.27	+.62	+0.5	▲	▼	▼
RepubSvc	RSG	65.37	103.79	95.40	-.80	-0.8	▲	▼	▲
Steelcse	SCS	7.02	23.02	13.66	-.07	-0.5	▲	▲	▲
Stryker	SYK	124.54	242.51	235.13	+1.07	+0.5	▲	▲	▲
TCF Finl	TCF	16.96	47.46	36.94	-.03	-0.1	▲	▲	▲
Target	TGT	90.17	181.17	171.69	+.28	+0.2	▬	▲	▲
TractSupp	TSCO	63.89	157.07	144.23	+3.10	+2.2	▲	▲	▲
UPS B	UPS	82.00	178.01	170.13	+2.96	+1.8	▲	▲	▲
VerizonCm	VZ	48.84	62.22	59.91	-.64	-1.1	▼	▼	▲
WEC Engy	WEC	68.01	109.53	92.27	-.65	-0.7	▬	▼	▼
WalMart	WMT	102.00	153.66	145.43	-.15	-0.1	▼	▼	▲
WalgBoots	WBA	33.36	59.78	40.44	-.89	-2.2	▼	▲	▲
Wendys Co	WEN	6.82	24.91	22.52	-.35	-1.5	▲	▲	▲
Whrlpl	WHR	64.00	207.30	187.09	-1.54	-0.8	▲	▼	▲
Worthgtn	WOR	19.28	56.43	52.53	-1.40	-2.6	▲	▲	▲
XPO Logis	XPO	38.47	123.59	120.00	-.09	-0.1	▼	▲	▲

OBITUARIES

Edward Paruch

April 6, 1920 – Dec. 15, 2020

Edward Paruch, 100, formerly of Three Oaks, beloved father, grandfather, great–grandfather, World War II veteran, and dedicated public servant, passed away Dec. 15, 2020, at The Willows, St. Joseph, after a long and full life.

Ed was born in Jackson, Mich., on April 6, 1920, to Chester and Josephine (Obuhowski) Paruch. He graduated from high school in 1938, joined the Civilian Conservation Corps and served in Wisconsin in soil conversation. In 1941, Ed joined the U.S. Army Air Force. During WWII, he served in the European theater, first in England, then in North Africa and Italy with the 15th Air Force. He was recognized with medals and awards for his service.

In 1947, Ed joined the Michigan State Police. He was stationed at the Niles, Paw Paw, and New Buffalo posts, receiving multiple commendations during his 28 years of service. Ed retired in 1975, going on to serve as a court bailiff for 14 years and then as a pre-trial release officer for the Berrien County Circuit Court.

In 1949, Ed married Margaret Jeanne Peters of Niles. He is survived by two sons: Pete (Judy) of St. Joseph, and Randy (Kim) of Jenison; five grandchildren: Tamara Rodman, Jason Paruch, Ryan Paruch, Zach Paruch and Christina Machado; and three great-grandchildren: Lucy Machado, William Paruch, and Esme Machado.

Ed has now been reunited with his wife, Jeanne; his parents; four brothers; and one sister.

Ed loved his family, fishing, hunting and golf, as well as his countless friends and acquaintances in the law enforcement community. He will be forever remembered for his sharp wit, enduring sense of humor, and stories of high adventure documenting his well-lived century of life.

Due to COVID-19, a graveside service will be held at Calvary Cemetery in Niles at 11 a.m., Monday, Dec. 21.

Special thanks to the staff and friends at The Willows, St. Joseph, and Caring Circle of Lakeland, for their loving care. In lieu of flowers, memorial contributions may be given to the Willows or Caring Circle of Lakeland. Those wishing to leave an online condolence for the family may do so at www.starks-menchinger.com.

Death notices

Connie Jean Cassidy, 80, of St. Joseph died Dec. 14, 2020. Starks & Menchinger Chapel and Cremation Services, St. Joseph, 556-9450.

Oswald "Ozzie" Janke, 77, of Stevensville died Dec. 12, 2020. Mishler Funeral Home, Bremen, Ind., 574-546-2861.

Edward Paruch, 100, formerly of Three Oaks died Dec. 15, 2020. Starks & Menchinger Chapel, St. Joseph, 556-9450.

Richard Allen Teifke, 56, of Buchanan died Dec. 15, 2020. Hoven Funeral Home, Buchanan, 695-2363.

Connie Jean Cassidy

March 23, 1940 – Dec. 14, 2020

Connie Jean Cassidy, 80, of St. Joseph passed away peacefully, with her family by her side, on Monday, Dec. 14, 2020, at her home in St. Joseph.

Connie was born on March 23, 1940, in Benton Harbor to Anthony and Bernice (Brown) Alti.

In 1958 when she was barely 18 years old, Connie's beloved dance teacher passed away of cancer, and studio parents and students asked Connie to finish the dance season, as recital time was near. Connie agreed to continue, "just until she decided what she wanted to be when she grew up." The Connie Cassidy School of Dance, has continued ever since, and "Miss Connie," as she became known, has been loved by thousands of children and their parents for generations. How fortunate it was for all that she never did grow up.

Known to love dogs nearly as much as she did dance, Connie adopted many retired greyhounds, whippets, and assorted mutts over the decades. During Connie's last years of life, her beloved whippets: WhoDo and Tegan were her constant companions, rarely straying far from her side.

Connie is survived by her children: Cammie (Mark Winnell) Hernandez, and Patrick (Eileen Perlmeter) Cassidy; her grandchildren: Anthony and Caitlin Hernandez; her great granddaughter, Zoe Jane Blocker; her brother, Gilbert (Leslie) Alti; and nieces: Kelly McGee Clark and Tracy McGee Schofield.

She is preceded in death by her sister, Janice McGee; her dance and business partner, Ross McDowell; former husband and dearest friend, Tom Cassidy; and her parents.

Services for Connie will be held at a later date. Memorial contributions may be given to Vision Outreach International, www.visionoutreach.org. Those wishing to leave an online condolence for the family may do so at www.starks-menchinger.com.

Richard Allen Teifke

May 20, 1964 – Dec. 15, 2020

Richard Allen Teifke, 56, of Buchanan passed away Tuesday, Dec. 15, 2020, at Lakeland Medical Center, St. Joseph.

Richard was born on May 20, 1964, to the late Carl and Janet (Reisig) Teifke in Buchanan. He enjoyed working on the family farm for most of his life.

He is survived by his brothers: Robert "Bob" Teifke, Dave Teifke; sister, Diane (Jerry) Serry; and four nieces.

Preceding him in death are his parents: Carl and Janet Teifke.

No service will be held. Cremation has taken place. Memorial donations can be made to the donor's choice or to the Berrien County Shriners. Arrangements have been entrusted to Hoven Funeral Home, Buchanan. Online condolences may be made at www.hovenfunerals.com.

Vincent Adam Grzesick

Nov. 13, 1961 – Dec. 7, 2020

Vincent was larger than life in many ways, and a dependable rock of never ending support. His life was a testimony to the power of personal strength, perseverance, kindness, understanding, goodness, faithfulness and love.

He achieved his pain free, peaceful self on Dec. 7, 2020, after a hard fought battle with COVID-19.

Marion Roman (deceased 1978) and Katherine Mary (deceased 2017) Grzesick, welcomed Vincent into their arms on Nov. 13, 1961.

As a child he loved the outdoors and spent his early years playing with friends along his beloved Hickory Creek, swimming in the pool his father built, and fishing. Hunting and riding his motorcycle added to his enjoyment.

Vincent attended Roosevelt Elementary School and completed high school at Lakeshore High School, where he learned to love cars and motorcycles, and loved to test the limits of how fast he could go. After high school he attended Hobart institute of Welding Technology in Ohio, then returned to Michigan for work. After a couple of years he moved to Arizona to attend CADD Institute, where he excelled in learning computers and drafting. Returning to Michigan, he found work at Stanley Knight Corporation, where he was the computer specialist to overseeing the engineering department over the next 15 years. Vincent was credited by the owners with saving the company, as he fully computerized the organization and automated the engineering process. When the company was sold and relocated out of state, he opened his own computer repair shop in Bridgman.

Vincent worked hard, but family and friends were his driving force. He lived life to the fullest. He loved his friends and family whole-heartedly, and there wasn't anything he wouldn't do to help them.

Vincent leaves behind many who love him including his sister, Mary (Rick) Diamond, who he counted on and who supported him his entire life; his brother, Michael (Diane) Grzesick, who taught him all about life; his niece, Jodie (Craig) Tuuk, who he was so proud of what a good mother she is to Brandon and Kylie; his niece, Natasha Grzesick Moseng, who he was so proud of everything she accomplished; niece, Shelly May; and nephews: Todd and Brian Sorce; his many beloved cousins, especially Joe Catania, who was like a brother to him; and his "aunt" Helen Schlitter, who he loved playing cards with. Vincent had many friends who mourn him, childhood friend, Robert Moschioni (there are many stories of all the adventures they got into), Dale Morrow (Vincent enjoyed watching Dale's boys grow up), Steve Doty, who faithfully kept in touch since Arizona days, and Chuck (Fran) Nicholas, who he considered a brother. Vincent appreciated all of Chuck's help and support over the years and enjoyed their long talks. Although he never had any children, Vincent considered Adam, Daniel and Ryan Closson "his" boys.

Vincent leaves behind his loving fiancée, Sherry Simpson, whom he always said was the love of his life and wished they had met much earlier in life.

Those wishing to honor Vincent may make memorial contributions to the Wounded Warrior Project. Per Vincent's wishes, there will not be a formal service at this time, but a celebration of life will be held at a later date.

Arrangements entrusted to Pike Funeral and Cremation Services, Boyd Chapel, 9191 Red Arrow Highway, Bridgman. Online condolences accepted at www.PikeFH.com.

Oswald Janke

Oct. 19, 1943 – Dec. 12, 2020

Oswald "Ozzie" Janke, 77, of Stevensville passed away Saturday, Dec. 12, 2020 at Signature HealthCARE, Bremen, Ind., of COVID-19.

Ozzie was born Oct. 19, 1943, to Gustav and Agate (Popke) Janke. He emigrated from Germany to the United States in 1951 at the age of 8. Ozzie graduated from Benton Harbor High School in 1962.

He worked at Bosch Corporation from 1972 to 2002, and retired after 30 years. Before working for Bosch Corp., he worked at New Products for seven years. Ozzie enjoyed working in his yard, listening to music, and spending time with family and friends. He's also known for telling a good joke and having an infectious laugh.

Ozzie is survived by his siblings: Lona Bumbulis, Herb Janke, and Trudy Enders. He is also survived by many nephews, nieces, great-nephews, and great-nieces.

Ozzie was preceded in death by his parents; and twin sister, Erika Weber.

Online condolences may be made at www.mishlerfuneralhomes.com.

Retail sales fell 1.1% in Nov., biggest drop in 7 months

By JOSEPH PISANI
AP Retail Writer

NEW YORK — Americans held back on spending during the start of the holiday shopping season, a troubling sign for retailers and the state of the U.S. economy.

U.S. retail sales fell a seasonally adjusted 1.1 percent in November, according to the U.S. Commerce Department. It was the biggest drop in seven months, and a steeper decline than Wall Street analysts had expected.

The report points to a weak start to the all-important holiday shopping season, which can usually account for a quarter or more of a retailer's annual sales. It is also another sign that the pandemic is slowing the U.S. economy as retailers face tighter restrictions and people stay away from stores.

The Commerce Department on Wednesday also revised October's report, saying that retail sales fell 0.1 percent that month, instead of rising 0.3 percent as it previously reported. Retailers had tried to get people to shop early, with Amazon, Best Buy, Walmart and others offering holiday deals in October.

Black Friday was also a bust. Typically one of the busiest shopping days of the season, shoppers mostly stayed home after health officials warned people not to shop in person, and retailers followed suit by putting their best deals online. Half as many people shopped inside stores this Black Friday than last year, according to retail data company Sensormatic Solutions.

Economists expect retail sales to fall again this month as virus cases spike and states add more restrictions.

"It will take a miracle to keep retail sales positive in December," said Chris Rupkey, chief financial economist at global financial group MUFG.

The U.S. economy has stalled after rebounding this summer following a spring shutdown. Many Americans have cut back on spending after losing a $600 weekly boost to unemployment checks that expired over the summer. Millions remain unemployed and hiring growth slowed last month. And in a sign Americans are less willing to spend, consumer confidence fell in November.

The Commerce Department said sales were down sharply at all types of retailers last month, including clothing, electronic and furniture stores. The biggest drop was at department stores, down 7.7 percent. Restaurant sales fell 4 percent.

The few bright spots were online sales, which rose 0.2 percent, supermarket sales, up 1.9 percent, and sales at home improvement stores, which were up 1.1 percent.

Wednesday's report covers only about a third of overall consumer spending. Services such as haircuts and hotel stays, which have been badly hurt by the pandemic, are not included.

DO YOU REMEMBER?

1995 – 25 years ago

The South Haven and Casco fire departments cease to exist Jan. 1, but will be reborn the same day as the new combined South Haven Area Emergency Services. The 22 Casco Township firefighters, all part-time paid employees, will join the city's 24 part-time paid and 12 full-time firefighters, South Haven Fire Chief Randy VanWynen said.

1985 – 35 years ago

The newly-organized Twin Cities Chamber Orchestra will hold auditions for musicians in January, according to Ulrich Bauman, who will serve the orchestra as conductor. Musicians needed are string, woodwind, brass and percussionists. The orchestra also is seeking donated folding chairs for rehearsals.

1970 – 50 years ago

Benton Harbor Police Lt. Harold Harris said he also has seen the "strange glow" in the sky that was reported Tuesday morning. Harris said he saw the glow in the same area in the southern sky shortly after 6 a.m., while he was driving home from police duty. Harris said it appeared to be stationary, but it was too bright to be the morning star.

TODAY IN HISTORY

By THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Today is Thursday, Dec. 17, the 352nd day of 2020. There are 14 days left in the year.

Highlight in history:

On Dec. 17, 1903, Wilbur and Orville Wright of Dayton, Ohio, conducted the first successful manned powered-airplane flights near Kitty Hawk, North Carolina, using their experimental craft, the Wright Flyer.

On this date:

In 1777, France recognized American independence.

In 1933, in the inaugural NFL championship football game, the Chicago Bears defeated the New York Giants, 23-21, at Wrigley Field.

In 1938, German chemists Otto Hahn and Fritz Strassmann discovered nuclear fission by splitting the nuclei of uranium into lighter elements.

In 1944, the U.S. War Department announced it was ending its policy of excluding people of Japanese ancestry from the West Coast.

In 1975, Lynette "Squeaky" Fromme was sentenced in Sacramento, Calif. to life in prison for her attempt on the life of President Gerald R. Ford. (She was paroled in Aug. 2009.)

In 1979, Arthur McDuffie, a Black insurance executive, was fatally injured after leading police on a chase with his motorcycle in Miami. (Four white police officers accused of beating McDuffie were later acquitted, sparking riots.)

In 1989, the animated TV series "The Simpsons" premiered on Fox with a Christmas-themed episode.

In 1992, President George H.W. Bush, Canadian Prime Minister Brian Mulroney and Mexican President Carlos Salinas de Gortari signed the North American Free Trade Agreement in separate ceremonies. (After President Donald Trump demanded a new deal, the three countries signed a replacement agreement in 2018.)

5-Day Forecast for St. Joseph

Today	Tonight	Friday	Saturday	Sunday	Monday
Mostly Cloudy	Mostly Cloudy	Mostly Cloudy	Rain & Snow Possible	Mostly Cloudy	Mostly Cloudy
34°	24°	39° / 31°	41° / 32°	39° / 33°	44° / 32°

Local Outlook

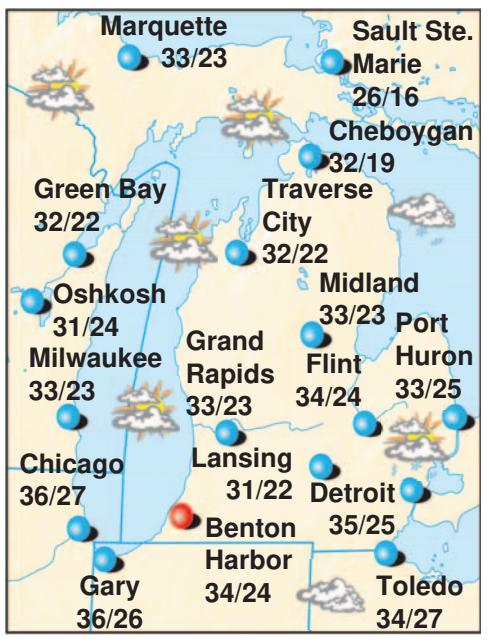
Today we will see mostly cloudy skies, high temperature of 34°, humidity of 65%. Light winds. Expect mostly cloudy skies tonight, overnight low of 24°. East southeast wind 1 to 5 mph. Friday, skies will be mostly cloudy, high of 39°, humidity of 60%.

Sun and Moon

Sunrise ..... 8:08 a.m.
Sunset ..... 5:15 p.m.
Moonrise ..... 11:03 a.m.
Moonset ..... 8:30 p.m.

First 12/21 · Full 12/29 · Last 1/6 · New 1/13

Regional Map



Local Almanac

Benton Harbor Yesterday

Temperature

High	30°
Low	26°
Normal High	34°
Normal Low	21°
Record High	54° in 2006
Record Low	6° in 2016

Precipitation

Yesterday	0.00"
Month to date	1.18"
Normal for month	1.21"
Year to date	33.21"
Normal Year to date	36.54"

Air Quality

Yesterday 43
Main Offender ..... Particles

The higher the number, the greater the need for people with respiratory problems to reduce outside activity.

0-50 ..... Good
51-100 ..... Moderate
101-150 .... Sensitive
151-200 .. Unhealthy

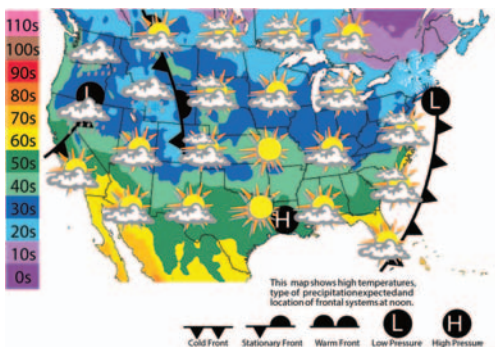
Weather Trivia

Does weather affect appetite?

Answer: Yes. In cold weather, your body requires more calories to heat itself.

National Weather Map

Forecast map for Dec. 17, 2020



For latest weather updates: **www.UpdatedWx.com/HP**

Lake Michigan

Today, NE wind around 6 kt. Mostly cloudy. Waves 1 ft or less. Water temperature 34 degrees. Tonight, Variable winds less than 5 kt. Mostly cloudy. Waves 1 ft or less.

Michigan Forecast

Upper Peninsula

Today, skies will be mostly cloudy with isolated snow showers, highs in the 20s and 30s. East northeast wind 3 to 11 mph. Expect mostly cloudy to cloudy skies Friday with highs in the 30s. South wind 6 to 11 mph.

Lower Peninsula

Today, skies will be mostly cloudy with isolated snow, highs in the 30s. Light winds. Expect mostly cloudy skies Friday with highs in the 30s. South southeast wind 5 to 14 mph.

Photos by Don Campbell / HP staff

Santa "Jim" and Mrs. Claus practice social distancing as they greet children from their cars Tuesday night in Coloma.

SANTA

From page A1

"It was absolutely wonderful. One thing that was really special is that this was my third year stopping in Coloma and some of the children remembered me!" he said. "It's just wonderful to see the looks on their faces."

Santa said this year has been very different for him, with no house calls, no sitting on his knee, no touching.

"Of course, Santa always wears gloves, so if I have to touch a child, like to catch one from falling or something, I immediately change out my gloves," he said. "I'm pretty experienced at it."

Santa said the most commonly requested items this year are PlayStations, Legos, Barbie dolls, Paw Patrol items and puppies.

"Sometimes you have to work around what they ask for. Like a puppy – I tell them that a puppy is a big responsibility and they'll have to talk to mom and dad about it first. For a PlayStation, I tell them they need to get their homework done first," Santa said. "I always tell the kids, 'Santa might not always bring you what you want, but he'll bring you what you need.'"

Stuglik and Smigielski thanked the many volunteers who made the event possible, including their fellow officers, the National Honor Society, the Miss Coloma queen's court, community leaders, parents and grandparents.

"Our community means a lot to us," Smigielski said. "We may be small but we do things big and we take care of each other."

Contact: jswidwa@TheHP.com, 932-0359, Twitter @HPSwidwa

Savannah Rynberg, 8, of Coloma, speaks with Santa from her car, a sign of the times in 2020.

ISD

From page A1

"We do not intend to rewrite or change the significance of Lewis Cass in Michigan history," he read from the committee's written recommendation during the meeting. "Rather, this recommendation is meant to acknowledge the importance of the Native American and African American community in Cass County."

Julie Dye, a Pokagon Tribal representative on the committee, said after the meeting that changing the name would be significant.

"When the announcement was made that they were going to start meeting and possibly change the name, one of our grandmothers from the tribe said it brought her to tears because she never thought it would be addressed," she said.

Cass was Michigan's territorial governor from 1813 to 1831, when he then became the secretary of war in President Andrew Jackson's cabinet, where he implemented Jackson's policy of Indian removal.

He was later a U.S. senator, representing Michigan from 1845 to 1857, with a break in 1848 when he unsuccessfully ran for president.

Holcomb said that the date, time and location of January's meeting will be posted on the ISD's website. Trustees have been meeting virtually due to the COVID-19 pandemic, but it is not yet known if they can do so again, because the amendment to the Open Meetings Act allowing virtual meetings expires on Dec. 31.

Trustees are also looking for candidates to fill the position of Trustee Heather Zile, who resigned after moving to Indiana.

Holcomb said anyone with a suggested name change or who wants to apply for the trustee position can email him at Brent.holcomb@lewiscassisd.org.

Contact: lwrege@TheHP.com, 932-0361, Twitter: @HPWrege

Inmates facing big virus risks not near top of vaccine lists

By COLLEEN SLEVIN and PATTY NIEBERG
Associated Press/Report for America

DENVER — Amber Johnson is terrified her 63-year-old father will get the coronavirus. He has high blood pressure, asthma and is pre-diabetic, and she worries he's especially vulnerable as an inmate in Colorado, where outbreaks in prisons are raging.

Prisons across the U.S. have been hit hard by COVID-19. Social distancing is virtually impossible behind bars: inmates sleep in close quarters and share bathrooms. Masks, hygiene supplies and safety protocols are often lacking, and many inmates have health problems that make them susceptible to the virus.

Johnson believes a vaccine might be the only hope for her father, Ronald Johnson, who is serving time for theft, forgery and drug possession.

But in Colorado and most other states, prisoners aren't near the front of the line for initial doses of COVID-19 vaccine now being distributed. Health care workers and nursing home residents are getting the first wave of shots, and many argue that those who break the law – despite living in conditions that put them at risk – shouldn't be a priority when many others are vulnerable.

"To think about him dying in prison is an awful thought because from what I've heard, if you have a loved one who dies in prison, you just kind of get the remains in a box. They cremate them and send them home," Amber Johnson said. "You don't have the opportunity to sit by them and hold their hand."

Initially, Colorado had inmates in the second phase of vaccine distribution, set for the spring, behind health workers and first responders but ahead of other adults over 65 with health conditions. Prisoners were to be treated like others in group housing, including homeless shelters and college dorms.

But an outcry followed. Suburban Denver prosecutor George Brauchler said the plan would have allowed two men convicted of killing the son of 66-year-old state Sen. Rhonda Fields to be vaccinated before her.

Democratic Gov. Jared Polis bowed to criticism last week, updating the plan to prioritize age and health risks over where people live. Jail staffers will still get the vaccine in the second phase, along with first responders.

Though Colorado changed course, California, North Carolina, Maryland, Delaware, Utah, New Mexico, Nebraska, Montana and Massachusetts have prisoners among the first to get the vaccine this winter. Some states also have taken steps to reduce COVID-19 risks behind bars by releasing nonviolent offenders early.

But even in states with the biggest prison outbreaks, inmates often weren't on early vaccine distribution plans.

The five states with the highest number of coronavirus cases in their prisons, according to data compiled as part of a joint project by The Associated Press and The Marshall Project – Texas, California, Florida, Michigan and Wisconsin – did not include details about how they would prioritize prisoners in their October draft reports to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention.

Michigan has decided to treat prisoners like everyone else, vaccinating them based on their age and health problems and not prioritizing them as a group. Jail and prison workers, however, are set to be vaccinated along with other essential workers before people 65 and older or those 16 and 64 with conditions like heart disease and diabetes that can worsen COVID-19, according to a state plan updated Sunday.

AID

From page A1

President-elect Joe Biden is eager for an aid package to prop up the economy and deliver direct aid to the jobless and hungry, even though the package falls short of what Democrats want. He called the emerging version "an important down payment" and promised more help next year.

Republicans, too, are anxious to approve some aid before going home for the year.

"We're still close and we're gonna get there," Senate Majority Leader Mitch McConnell of Kentucky told reporters Wednesday evening as he left the Capitol. And during a Senate GOP lunchtime call a day earlier, party leaders stressed the importance of reaching an agreement before the upcoming Georgia Senate runoff election.

The details were still being worked out, but lawmakers in both parties said leaders had agreed on a top-line total of about $900 billion, with direct payments of perhaps $600 to most Americans and a $300-per-week bonus federal unemployment benefit to partially replace a $600-per-week benefit that expired this summer. It also includes the renewal of extra weeks of state unemployment benefits for the long-term jobless. More than $300 billion in subsidies for business, including a second round of "paycheck protection" payments to especially hard-hit businesses, are locked in, as is $25 billion to help struggling renters with their payments and provide food aid and farm subsidies, and a $10 billion bailout for the Postal Service.

Democrats acknowledged that the removal of a $160 billion-or-so aid package for state and local governments whose budgets have been thrown out of balance by the pandemic was a bitter loss.

"It's heartbreaking for us," said Sen. Dick Durbin of Illinois, whose state has big fiscal problems.

The emerging package was serving as a magnet for adding on other items, and the two sides continued to swap offers. It was apparent that another temporary spending bill would be needed to prevent a government shutdown at midnight on Friday. That was likely to easily pass.

The frightening, record surge in COVID caseloads and deaths, combined with troubling economic indicators is mandating an agreement, though the emerging package contains less economic stimulus than the March aid bill.

Pressure for a deal is intense. Unemployment benefits run out Dec. 26 for more than 10 million people. Many businesses are barely hanging on after nine months of the pandemic. And money is needed to distribute new vaccines that are finally offering hope for returning the country to a semblance of normalcy.

hp SPORTS

ND-Clemson rematch takes center stage

Conference championship games dot the college football landscape this weekend, and none is more important than the Notre Dame-Clemson rematch for the ACC title.

Al Arend
Big Al's Picks

Notre Dame is currently rated No. 2 and Clemson No. 3 in the College Football Playoff (CFP) rankings, with Alabama No. 1 and Ohio State No. 4.

Why is the rematch so important?

If the Fighting Irish should win again, it would eliminate Clemson, as no two-loss team has ever made the CFP. That would open the door for say a Texas A&M, or perhaps an unbeaten Cincinnati.

But Clemson, which lost to Notre Dame in double overtime without Heisman Trophy candidate quarterback Trevor Lawrence, has been installed as a 10.5-point favorite this time around. But I doubt an ND loss would eliminate the Irish from the CFP, unless it's 49-0 or some ridiculous score like that.

Make it: Clemson 31, Notre Dame 27

Expect the Irish to give the Tigers all they want, and maybe more.

Other conference championships:

Friday

MAC: Buffalo 35, Ball State 17

Can't wait for this one.

USA: Marshall 27, UAB 23

Geez, which Friday night game should I watch, this one or the MAC title tilt?

PAC 12: Oregon 31, USC 28

I'll fly with the Ducks, a slight underdog on Friday night. Wait a minute: Do Ducks fly at night?

Saturday

Big Ten: Ohio State 42, Northwestern 17

Let's see: Michigan State upset Northwestern. Ohio State thumped the Spartans by 40!

Big 12: Oklahoma 34, Iowa State 31

When was the last time the Big 12 championship didn't mean much?

Sun Belt: Coastal Carolina 34, Louisiana 27

Hard to beat CC (Canadian Club, that is).

SEC: Alabama 52, Florida 28

Crimson Tide rolls over Gators, and waits to hear if they're going to play Notre Dame, Clemson or Ohio State in CFP semifinals on Jan. 1.

AAC: Cincinnati 42, Tulsa 24

Do the unbeaten Bearcats really deserve a shot at the CFP?

Idle thought

Why is the Big Ten Championship game on FOX not on Saturday night, like it always has been? But the meaningless MSU-Maryland game on the Big Ten channel is? Michigan-Iowa was also set for Saturday night before getting postponed.

On with the rest of the forecast for other games:

See **BIG AL**, page B2

Haney to lead Senior PGA Championship

New championship director worked in operations at 3 past events at Harbor Shores

By HP STAFF

Brandon Haney was announced Wednesday as the championship director for the 2022 KitchenAid Senior PGA Championship, which will be held May 21-24, 2022 at Harbor Shores.

Haney replaces Ryan Ogle, who served as championship director for the 2016 and 2018 championships at Harbor Shores, as well as the 2020 event which was canceled by the COVID-19 pandemic. Ogle is now the PGA Championship director.

Harbor Shores has hosted the Senior PGA Championship in even-numbered years since 2012, and Haney has been involved in the event in the past. He served as an operations assistant in 2014, and was operations manager in 2016 and 2018. He spent the past two years as operations manager for the 2020 Ryder Cup, which

HANEY

was postponed until 2021 due to the pandemic, and will continue in both positions until after the Ryder Cup.

"Benton Harbor is such a special place, and working with the KitchenAid Senior PGA Championship has been one of the true highlights of my career," Haney said in a news release. "When the opportunity presented itself to take on the role as championship director, I knew I could not pass up a chance to be part of this historic event, which has become so important to Southwest Michigan."

Haney, a native of DeForest, Wis., graduated from the University of Minnesota-Twin Cities with a degree in business and marketing. He has worked in sporting events and management for nearly a decade.

Jeff Fettig, former Whirlpool CEO, will continue in his role as General Chair of the tournament.

"It is an honor to welcome back Brandon to Benton Harbor to help us continue to grow the KitchenAid Senior PGA Championship, which helps us every other year invite the world to consider visiting or moving to our incredible community," Fettig said in the news release. "I look forward to assembling a Championship Steering Committee of passionate community leaders who will work with the fantastic volunteers to host one of the most historic events at one of the best venues in major championship golf."

Matt Gentry / AP

Clemsons' Trevor Lawrence runs for a 17-yard touchdown past Virginia Tech's Brion Murray during the first quarter of a Dec. 5 game.

ACC showdown

Irish QB Book, Clemson's Lawrence in the spotlight of Saturday's championship game

By PETE IACOBELLI
Associated Press

CLEMSON, S.C. — Clemson quarterback Trevor Lawrence, wearing a mask and standing on the sideline, watched his Notre Dame counterpart Ian Book rally the Fighting Irish to a dramatic victory last month.

Lawrence is expected to play a major role in what happens in the rematch when the second-ranked Fighting Irish (10-0, 9-0 ACC; No. 2 CFP) take on No. 4 Clemson (9-1, 8-1; No. 3 CFP) in the ACC championship game on Saturday in Charlotte, North Carolina.

Sidelined with COVID-19, Lawrence was a spectator in Notre Dame's 47-40 double-overtime victory in November – Clemson's lone loss this season. Lawrence traveled with the team to Indiana and gave advice to his backup, freshman DJ Uiagalelei, throughout the game.

It gave Lawrence a perspective of the game he usually doesn't have and it left im very impressed with Book's play.

"In big games like that, a quarterback has to play well to win and he played great," Lawrence said. "He extended plays really well, made some big throws. I've got a lot of respect for him."

It was a huge game, and there may be even more on the line this time.

Lawrence will look to lead the Tigers to a sixth consecutive league championship game – an unprecedented feat in the Power Five era. Fans should expect him to lead the way with his calm demeanor, strong arm and knack for making big plays at the most important times.

Notre Dame coach Brian Kelly said his team has heard too often about Lawrence's absence in that first game; he's eager to face a healthy Lawrence.

"We recognize (Lawrence) is a great football player, and to have him on the field certainly is what you want in the championship game," Kelly said.

Especially with Book on the other side. He is a savvy, fifth-year player who is 30-3 as a starter in his Notre Dame career – the second highest winning percentage in college to Lawrence's 33-1 mark.

Book passed on the NFL last season for a final year with the Irish and has made the most of that decision, leading his team to the brink of their second College Football Playoff appearance in three seasons.

He's thrown for 2,382 yards and 15 touchdowns against two interceptions. Book has also rushed for 465 yards and eight TDs in the Fighting Irish's second 10-0 start in three seasons. Book and Notre Dame were 12-0 in 2018 before the perfect season ended with a thud, a 30-3 loss in the Cotton Bowl against Clemson and Lawrence. The Tigers went on to win the national championship.

See **ACC**, page B2

Lions' Ragnow played with fractured throat

By DAVE BIRKETT
Detroit Free Press (TNS)

Paul Sancya / AP

Detroit Lions center Frank Ragnow (77) plays against the Houston Texans during the second half of a Nov. 26 game.

DETROIT — The injury does not even sound real. And the fact he played the entire game despite it is mind-boggling.

Detroit Lions center Frank Ragnow missed practice Wednesday with a fractured throat he suffered in last week's loss to the Green Bay Packers.

NFL Network, which first reported the injury, said it occurred in the first quarter of the game.

Ragnow played all 68 offensive snaps against the Packers, but his status for this week's game against the Tennessee Titans – plus the Lions' final two games – is uncertain.

The Lions have been in contact with three specialists to determine their next course of action with the injury. Ragnow's airway is unobstructed and he is able to eat, a person familiar with the injury told the Free Press, but he is not supposed to talk or otherwise strain his throat.

A fractured throat bone is extremely rare, according to the Journal of Maxillofacial and Oral Surgery, and typically the product of trauma associated with strangulation.

Indianapolis Colts defensive tackle Henry Anderson suffered a similar injury in 2017 that kept him out of seven games.

Anderson was hurt when he was hit in the front of his neck by a running back, and eventually required season-ending surgery.

Ragnow, in his third NFL season, has played at a Pro Bowl level this fall and along with Taylor Decker leads the Lions' much-improved offensive line. He and Decker are the only two Lions to play every offensive snap this season.

"He's grown as a player every way, as a player on the field, a player off the field, and he's fun to coach and the biggest thing for him is being a leader, excelling that way," offensive line coach Hank Fraley said earlier this month. "He's coachable and he's willing to be coached and he's always trying to strive to be the best. I just enjoy the energy he brings every day on that field and he's going to be a heck of a ball player for a long time in this league and he still hasn't touched his ceiling."

If Ragnow cannot play Sunday, either Joe Dahl or rookie Jonah Jackson would start at center.

The Lions played last week without starting right tackle Tyrell Crosby because of an ankle injury, and Crosby sat out practice Wednesday.

Halapoulivaati Vaitai, who has spent the past three weeks on injured reserve with a foot injury, returned to practice Wednesday and could be elevated to the 53-man roster this weekend.

MLB reclassifies Negro Leagues as major league

NEW YORK (AP) — Willie Mays will add some hits to his record, Monte Irvin's big league batting average should climb over .300 and Satchel Paige may add nearly 150 victories to his total.

Josh Gibson, the greatest of all Negro League sluggers, might just wind up with a major league record, too.

The statistics and records of greats like Gibson, Paige and roughly 3,400 other players are set to join Major League Baseball's books after MLB announced Wednesday it is reclassifying the Negro Leagues as a major league.

MLB said Wednesday it was "correcting a longtime oversight in the game's history" by elevating the Negro Leagues on the centennial of its founding. The Negro Leagues consisted of seven leagues, and MLB will include records from those circuits between 1920-48. The Negro Leagues began to dissolve one year after Jackie Robinson became MLB's first Black player with the Brooklyn Dodgers in 1947.

Those leagues were excluded in 1969 when the Special Committee on Baseball Records identified six official "major leagues" dating to 1876.

"It is MLB's view that the Committee's 1969 omission of the Negro Leagues from consideration was clearly an error that demands today's designation," the league said in a statement.

The league will work with the Elias Sports Bureau to review Negro Leagues statistics and records and figure out how to incorporate them into MLB's history. There was no standard method of record keeping for the Negro Leagues, but there are enough box scores to stitch together some of its statistical past.

For instance, Mays could be credited with 17 hits from his 1948 season with the Alabama Black Barons. Irvin, a teammate of Mays' with the New York Giants, could see his career average climb from .293 to .304 if numbers listed at Baseball-Reference from his nine Negro League seasons are accurate. And Paige, who currently is credited with 28 major league wins, should add at least 146 to his total.

While some have estimated Gibson slugged over 800 homers during 16 Negro League seasons, it's unlikely that enough records exist for him to officially pass Barry Bonds for the career record at 762.

Depending on what Elias and MLB rule, though, Gibson could wind up with another notable record. His

See **LEAGUES**, page B2

High court agrees to hear NCAA compensation case

By JESSICA GRESKO
Associated Press

WASHINGTON — For the first time in more than three decades, the Supreme Court will hear a case involving the NCAA and what it means to be a college athlete.

The high court on Wednesday agreed to review a court decision in an antitrust lawsuit the NCAA has said blurred "the line between student-athletes and professionals" by removing caps on compensation that major college football and basketball players can receive.

The case will be argued in 2021 with a decision expected before the end of June. The last time the Supreme Court heard an NCAA case was 1984. NCAA vs. the Board of Regents of the University of Oklahoma changed the way college football could be broadcast on television, setting the stage of billion-dollar media rights contracts and conference realignment.

"That was a shape-shifting decision that in many ways fundamentally changed economics of college football and college football television," said Gabe Feldman, director of the sports law program at Tulane. "And ever since that 1984 decision, courts have been relying on that language to try to interpret antitrust law applies to all NCAA restrictions, including player compensation."

The high court's decision to hear the so-called Alston case comes after a three-judge panel of the 9th U.S. Circuit Court of Appeals ruled in May. The panel upheld a lower court ruling barring the NCAA from capping education-related compensation and benefits for student-athletes in Division I football and basketball programs. Division I conferences can still independently set their own rules.

The case was brought by former West Virginia football player Shawne Alston and others.

The narrow ruling in the case, which required any compensation to athletes to be tethered to education, left both sides claiming victory at the time.

And now both sides are celebrating the decision by the Supreme Court to hear the case.

Donald Remy, the NCAA's chief legal officer, said in a statement that the NCAA is pleased the court will review the case. "The NCAA and its members continue to believe that college campuses should be able to improve the student-athlete experience without facing never-ending litigation regarding these changes," Remy said.

Jeffrey Kessler, the lead attorney for the plaintiffs, said: "It is time for the Supreme Court to reaffirm that the big multibillion-dollar businesses of Division I basketball and FBS football are fully subject to antitrust review and that the era of exploiting the athletes who provide the labor in these businesses must come to an end."

In August, Justice Elena Kagan had denied the NCAA's request to put lower court rulings in favor of athletes on hold at least temporarily while the NCAA formally petitioned the Supreme Court to take up the case.

The NCAA had said the ruling "effectively created a pay-for-play system for all student-athletes, allowing them to be paid both 'unlimited' amounts for participating in 'internships'" and an additional $5,600 or more each year they remain eligible to play their sport.

The NCAA is in the process of changing its rules to permit athletes to be compensated for the use of their names, images and likenesses.

That should open opportunities for athletes to be paid for endorsement and sponsorship deals, for appearances and for promoting products or events on social media accounts.

NCAA's bylaws regarding NIL compensation are on course to be changed as soon as January, but the association is unlikely to have the last word on that matter: Dozens of states have passed or are working on bills that would make it impossible for the NCAA to restrict athletes from earning money from their fame. Florida's could be first to go into effect this summer.

The NCAA is looking to Congress for help in the form of a federal law that would supersede state laws, create uniform rules for NIL compensation and protect the association from further antitrust challenges.

Last week, Sen. Roger Wicker (R-Miss.) introduced the Collegiate Athlete and Compensation Rights Act. Democratic senators are expected to introduce their version of an NIL bill soon, likely to take a more broad approach to granting athletes' rights than Wicker's and a bill introduced by Sen. Marco Rubio (R-Fla.).

Now the Supreme Court will weigh in, too.

"This case, and I don't think it's overstating it, depending on how it is decided could fundamentally change the structure of college sports and the relationship between college athletes and their schools and conferences," Feldman said. "It could open the door to significant competition between schools for athletes' services, and ultimately allow schools to pay anything they want to try to attract the athlete. Or it could completely shut down that competition."

LEAGUES

From page B1

.441 batting average in 1943 would be the best season mark ever, edging Hugh Duffy's .440 from 1894. Gibson's line came in fewer than 80 games, however, far short of the modern standard of 162.

"We couldn't be more thrilled by this recognition of the significance of the Negro Leagues in Major League Baseball history," said Edward Schauder, legal representative for Gibson's estate and co-founder of the Negro Leagues Players Association. "Josh Gibson was a legend who would have certainly been a top player in the major leagues if he had been allowed to play."

MLB said it considered input from the National Baseball Hall of Fame and Museum, the Negro League Researchers and Authors Group and studies by other baseball authors and researchers.

"The perceived deficiencies of the Negro Leagues' structure and scheduling were born of MLB's exclusionary practices, and denying them major league status has been a double penalty, much like that exacted of Hall of Fame candidates prior to Satchel Paige's induction in 1971," baseball historian John Thorn said. "Granting MLB status to the Negro Leagues a century after their founding is profoundly gratifying."

ACC

From page B1

Book wants to add a national title of his own to his college legacy, a quest that could include an ACC title.

"If you hear my name, that is what you think of," Book said of not winning a championship. "We still have to go do that, so that's what I want."

Lawrence knows how it feels to hold that trophy. He also knows the disappointment of coming up short. Last year, Clemson lost 42-25 to LSU in what was Lawrence's poorest college showing. Lawrence has used it as motivation for wanting to play amid the coronavirus pandemic and not opting out to protect his future as the expected No. 1 overall pick in the upcoming NFL draft.

Clemson coach Dabo Swinney said it is difficult to list all of Lawrence's superlatives because it would "take all day and half of the next."

But there are couple that stand out:

■ Lawrence is second in the ACC with 2,483 yards and 20 touchdowns, despite playing three fewer games (two out with COVID-19, the other a canceled contest at Florida State due to the virus).

■ He leads the league in completion percentage, continually playing at high level amid questions about his NFL future, his illness and issues include social and racial injustice.

Book met Lawrence a few ago when they were both at the Manning Passing Academy. Book got to know him somewhat when they both coached seven-on-seven clubs that wound up facing each other – Lawrence's team won, Book recalled.

"He's a really, really good quarterback and a better person," Book said.

Lawrence, 21, will graduate Thursday with a bachelor's degree in marketing. With his academic requirements complete, his focus is not on revenge for the loss earlier this season, but another championship.

"Usually I'm on the good side of games, we win," Lawrence said. "But after losing that game (at Notre Dame), it's really good we've got a chance to play them again. It's really rare and we're grateful for that."

BIG AL

From page B1

COLLEGE
Last week: 28-8, .778
Season: 292-96, .755
Friday
Nebraska 27, Rutgers 24
Saturday
Michigan State 31, Maryland 28
Penn State 38, Illinois 21
Wisconsin 42, Minnesota 28
Arizona St. 35, Oregon St. 23
Army 28, Air Force 27
LSU 34. Mississippi 31
Missouri 30, Miss. State 28
Texas A&M 38, Tennessee 17
UCLA 42, Stanford 37
Utah 33, Washington St. 22
Wake Forest 35, Florida St. 31

Bowl games

Monday
Myrtle Beach Bowl
Appalachian St. 42, N. Texas 24
There will always be a special place in my heart for App. State!!!

Tuesday
Potato Bowl
Nevada 34, Tulane 28
Can't wait.

Boca Raton Bowl
BYU 52, Central Florida 23
Sure glad these two games aren't on at the same time. Don't know which one I'd watch.

New Orleans Bowl
Ga. Southern 38, La. Tech 31
Better things to do in New Orleans than watch this one.

Montgomery Bowl
Memphis 42, Fla. Atlantic 28
No one in Alabama cares!

Al Arend is a sports correspondent for The Herald-Palladium. His weekly football predictions appear every Thursday throughout the college season.

hp Visit The Herald-Palladium online www.TheHP.com

MLB tells team managers to expect on-time spring training start

ST. PETERSBURG, Fla. (AP) — Big league managers say that Major League Baseball has instructed them to prepare for spring training to start on time in mid-February despite uncertainty around the coronavirus.

Tampa Bay Rays manager Kevin Cash said Wednesday that officials from the commissioner's office had a meeting with managers Tuesday and expressed optimism about opening spring camps as scheduled.

"That message has been fairly consistent," Cash said. "We'll continue to plan and prepare until if we are told otherwise."

Sue Ogrocki / AP

Young fans look out to the practice fields after a spring training baseball game between the Los Angeles Dodgers and the Chicago Cubs was canceled for inclement weather at Sloan Park in Mesa, Ariz., in this March 12 photo.

Managers have said this week during digital Winter Meetings press availabilities that they expect health protocols to remain in place to prevent COVID-19 outbreaks. Teams instituted a number of policies during a pandemic-shortened 60-game regular season in 2020 that produced better results as the year went on, largely keeping players and staff safe even as teams traveled around the country.

"I think Major League Baseball was somewhat the petri dish," Cash said. "We were the first real big sport to really get going outside of a bubble. Obviously if you look at last year's situation, Major League Baseball, everybody adjusted on the fly. Now there's more sports that have done things, accomplished things."

A vaccine for the novel coronavirus is likely to be made available to teams some time during the 2021 season, and while managers say they plan to be inoculated, no manager or team has said it will mandate vaccines for players. Most said they were eager to provide information to players, but not to issue directions.

"I don't think it would be right for me to point the finger and say, you've got to do this," Cash said. "We just don't operate like that. We'll lean on the experts to give us as much information as possible so individuals can make the best decisions for themselves and families."

"I think we'll have a lot more information and clarity and direction in a couple of months, if and when that conversation becomes a reality," Yankees manager Aaron Boone said. "I don't feel equipped to have that conversation today."

Florida's Johnson improving after collapse on court

By MARK LONG
Associated Press

GAINESVILLE, Fla. — Florida forward Keyontae Johnson's prognosis is "trending in the right direction, but we still have a lot of questions," the school's athletic director said Wednesday.

Scott Stricklin told WRUF radio that Johnson continues to make progress after collapsing on the court during a game at Florida State. Stricklin visited Johnson at UF Health on Tuesday afternoon.

"He was actually awake. He was actually sitting up in a chair," Stricklin said. "You could tell he's still been sedated, so he was still a little groggy. But he thanked me for coming by. It was good to see him and sitting up. He had family in there, his parents and others."

Stricklin said he has received even better news since regarding Johnson's recovery.

"I'm told he's even progressed a lot since then, that he's having good conversations with his doctors, with his coaches," Stricklin said. "He's smiling and laughing, still undergoing more tests. I think the tests that have gotten back so far have been positive from a medical standpoint.

"His prognosis seems to be trending in the right direction, but we still have a lot of questions. The medical folks have a lot of questions they want to make sure they get answered."

Johnson crumpled to the floor coming out a timeout Saturday and received emergency medical attention. The Southeastern Conference's preseason player of the year was moved to a stretcher and carried to a waiting ambulance as teammates, coaches, staff, fans and others watched in disbelief.

ESPN declined to show video of the incident. Witnesses said Johnson was standing near midcourt and suddenly fell forward and landed on his face.

He spent two nights at Tallahassee Memorial before being transferred to Gainesville via helicopter with his mother by his side.

Like many of his Florida teammates, Johnson tested positive for COVID-19 during the summer. Although the cause of Johnson's collapse has not been revealed, the coronavirus can lead to myocarditis, a viral infection of the heart muscle. At its most severe, myocarditis can lead to sudden cardiac arrest and has been a documented cause of death for young, otherwise healthy athletes.

The SEC mandates strict protocols, including rigorous heart testing, before players can be cleared to return to play following positive COVID-19 tests.

"The one thing I told Key when I saw him yesterday is he has no idea the number of people who have been lifting him up in prayer and sending along good thoughts," said Stricklin, who also praised FSU's medical team and athletics department. "He needed to know how much he was loved, not just by Gators, I mean people all over the sporting community in the state of Florida and beyond have really lifted him up."

The Gators postponed a home game against North Florida on Wednesday and are scheduled to host Florida Atlantic on Saturday.

SCOREBOARD

NFL

AMERICAN CONFERENCE

East	W	L	T	Pct	PF	PA
Buffalo	10	3	0	.769	359	321
Miami	8	5	0	.615	330	245
New England	6	7	0	.462	277	279
N.Y. Jets	0	13	0	.000	183	393
South	W	L	T	Pct	PF	PA
Indianapolis	9	4	0	.692	372	300
Tennessee	9	4	0	.692	390	336
Houston	4	9	0	.308	295	359
Jacksonville	1	12	0	.077	261	383
North	W	L	T	Pct	PF	PA
x-Pittsburgh	11	2	0	.846	349	237
Cleveland	9	4	0	.692	348	368
Baltimore	8	5	0	.615	363	273
Cincinnati	2	10	1	.192	244	338
West	W	L	T	Pct	PF	PA
yx-Kansas City	12	1	0	.923	403	281
Las Vegas	7	6	0	.538	350	391
Denver	5	8	0	.385	257	347
L.A. Chargers	4	9	0	.308	297	362

NATIONAL CONFERENCE

East	W	L	T	Pct	PF	PA
Washington	6	7	0	.462	287	275
N.Y. Giants	5	8	0	.385	238	291
Phila.	4	8	1	.346	277	328
Dallas	4	9	0	.308	298	400
South	W	L	T	Pct	PF	PA
x-New Orleans	10	3	0	.769	368	265
Tampa Bay	8	5	0	.615	370	294
Atlanta	4	9	0	.308	328	322
Carolina	4	9	0	.308	307	332
North	W	L	T	Pct	PF	PA
yx-Green Bay	10	3	0	.769	410	323
Chicago	6	7	0	.462	282	291
Minnesota	6	7	0	.462	333	355
Detroit	5	8	0	.385	310	389
West	W	L	T	Pct	PF	PA
L.A. Rams	9	4	0	.692	325	246
Seattle	9	4	0	.692	393	324
Arizona	7	6	0	.538	358	303
San Francisco	5	8	0	.385	300	311

x-clinched playoff spot
y-clinched division

Thursday's Game
L.A. Chargers at Las Vegas
Saturday's Games
Buffalo at Denver, 4:30 p.m.
Carolina at Green Bay, 8:15 p.m.
Sunday's Games
Chicago at Minnesota, 1 p.m.
Detroit at Tennessee, 1 p.m.
Houston at Indianapolis, 1 p.m.
Jacksonville at Baltimore, 1 p.m.
New England at Miami, 1 p.m.
San Francisco at Dallas, 1 p.m.
Seattle at Washington, 1 p.m.
Tampa Bay at Atlanta, 1 p.m.
N.Y. Jets at L.A. Rams, 4:05 p.m.
Phila. at Arizona, 4:05 p.m.
Kansas City at New Orleans, 4:25 p.m.
Cleveland at N.Y. Giants, 8:20 p.m.
Monday's Game
Pittsburgh at Cincinnati, 8:15 p.m.
Friday, Dec. 25
Minnesota at New Orleans, 4:30 p.m.
Saturday, Dec. 26
Tampa Bay at Detroit, 1 p.m.
San Francisco at Arizona, 4:30 p.m.
Miami at Las Vegas, 8:15 p.m.
Sunday, Dec. 27
Atlanta at Kansas City, 1 p.m.
Carolina at Washington, 1 p.m.
Chicago at Jacksonville, 1 p.m.
Cincinnati at Houston, 1 p.m.
Cleveland at N.Y. Jets, 1 p.m.
Indianapolis at Pittsburgh, 1 p.m.
N.Y. Giants at Baltimore, 1 p.m.
Denver at L.A. Chargers, 4:05 p.m.
L.A. Rams at Seattle, 4:25 p.m.
Phila. at Dallas, 4:25 p.m.
Tennessee at Green Bay, 8:20 p.m.
Monday, Dec. 28
Buffalo at New England, 8:15 p.m.

COLLEGE FOOTBALL

2020-21 Bowl Games
Canceled
Bahamas Bowl
Celebration Bowl
Fenway Bowl
Frisco Bowl
Hawaii Bowl
Holiday Bowl
LA Bowl
Las Vegas Bowl
Pinstripe Bowl
Quick Lane Bowl
Redbox Bowl
Sun Bowl

Monday, Dec. 21
Myrtle Beach Bowl
Conway, S.C.
Appalachian St. vs. North Texas, 2:30 p.m. (ESPN)
Tuesday, Dec. 22
Famous Idaho Potato Bowl
Boise
Tulane vs. Nevada, 3:30 p.m. (ESPN)
Boca Raton (Fla.) Bowl
UCF vs. BYU, 7 p.m. (ESPN)
Wednesday, Dec. 23
New Orleans Bowl
Louisiana Tech vs. Georgia Southern, 3:30 p.m. (ESPN)
Montgomery (Ala.) Bowl
Memphis vs. FAU, 7 p.m., (ESPN or ESPN2)
Thursday, Dec. 24
New Mexico Bowl
Frisco, Texas
Hawaii vs. Houston, 3:30 p.m. (ESPN)
Friday, Dec. 25
Camellia Bowl
Montgomery, Ala.
MAC vs. Sun Belt, 2:30 p.m. (ESPN)
Saturday, Dec. 26
Gasparilla Bowl
At Tampa, Fla.
American/ACC/SEC, noon, (ABC)
Cure Bowl
Orlando, Fla.
American/MAC/Sun Belt, noon, (ESPN)
SERVPRO First Responder Bowl
Dallas
UTSA vs. American/ACC/Big 12, 3:30 p.m. (ABC)
Lendingtree Bowl
Mobile, Ala.
Western Kentucky vs. Georgia St., 3:30 p.m.
Independence Bowl
Shreveport, La.
Army vs. Pac-12, 7 p.m. (ESPN)
Guaranteed Rate Bowl
Phoenix
Big 12 vs. Big Ten, 10:15 p.m. (ESPN)
Monday, Dec. 28
Military Bowl
Annapolis, Md.
ACC vs. American, 2:30 p.m. (ESPN)
Tuesday, Dec. 29
Cheez-It Bowl
Orlando, Fla.
ACC vs. Big 12, 5:30 p.m. (ESPN)
Alamo Bowl
San Antonio
Big 12 vs. Pac-12, 9 p.m. (ESPN)
Wednesday, Dec. 30
Duke's Mayo Bowl
Charlotte, N.C.
ACC vs. Big Ten, noon (ESPN)

PRIME TIME TV

THURSDAY EVENING DEC. 17

	7:30	8 PM	8:30	9 PM	9:30	10 PM	10:30
ABC 7 13 41 57	Wheel of Fortune	Station 19 Ben confronts a tough loss.		Grey's Anatomy A controversial surgery.		:01 A Million Little Things "The Talk"	
CBS 2 3 22	Ent. Tonight	Young Sheldon	:31 B Positive	:01 Mom (N) CC	The Unicorn (N)	Star Trek: Discovery "Despite Yourself"	
NBC 5 8 16	Race in Chicago	★★★ Dolly Parton's Coat of Many Colors ('15, Docudrama) Alyvia Alyn Lind.				:01 Dateline NBC (N) CC	
FOX 17 222 28 32	NFL Pregame	NFL Football Los Angeles Chargers at Las Vegas Raiders. (N) (L)					
PBS 34	Radar-Michigan	Frankie Drake Mysteries "Ghosts"		Father Brown "The Eagle and the Daw"		Legends-Martin Family	
CW 25	Big Bang Theory	Dogs of the Year (N) CC		Funniest Animals	Funniest Animals	News	Seinfeld CC
MNT 50	Family Feud	Dateline "What They Saw" CC		Dateline "The Unusual Suspect"		Law & Order: Criminal Intent Gambling.	
WCIU 26	Mike & Molly	Dogs of the Year (N) CC		Funniest Animals	Funniest Animals	King of Queens	King of Queens
WHME 46	:00 Heartland	Heartland "Out of the Shadows"		Highway to Heaven (Part 1 of 2) CC		Nightly News	
WGN 9	News	black-ish CC	black-ish	Last Man Standing	Last Man Standing	WGN News at Nine (N) (L) CC	
A&E	:00 The First 48	The First 48 Presents Critical		The First 48 Presents Critical		:01 Killer Cases (N) CC	
AMC	Santa	★★★ The Polar Express ('04) Voices of Tom Hanks, Michael Jeter. CC				★★★ Scrooged ('88) CC	
Animal	Gold	Gold Rush: Alaska		Gold Rush: Alaska		Gold Rush: Alaska	
BET	6:30 ★★ Daddy Day Care			★★ Meet the Browns ('08) CC			
Big Ten	Women's College Basketball			Big Ten	B1G Football in 60		Football
Bravo	Southern Charm	Southern Charm (N) CC		Southern Charm Kathryn faces backlash from posts. (N) CC			Real
Cartoon	Teen	Gumball	Gumball	Burgers	Burgers	American	American
Cinemax	Black Rain ('89)	★★★ One Hour Photo ('02) Robin Williams. CC			:38 The Quarry ('20, Suspense) Shea Whigham. CC		
CMT	Last Man	★★ Mr. & Mrs. Smith ('05) Brad Pitt, Angelina Jolie. CC					
CNBC	S. Smith	Shark Tank CC		Shark Tank		Shark Tank	
CNN	OutFront	Anderson Cooper		Cuomo Prime Time		CNN Tonight	
Comedy	Office	Office	Office	Office	Office	Office	Office
Discovery	6:00 BattleBots	BattleBots "Stop! Hammer Time!" (N) CC				Rocket Around the Xmas Tree (N) CC	
Disney	Raven	Raven	Bunk'd	Jessie	Bunk'd	Bunk'd	Bunk'd
DIY	Restoring	Flea	Flea	Flea	Flea	Flea	Flea
E!	Kardas	Total Bellas CC		Total Bellas (N)		Total Bellas CC	
ESPN	College Basketball			NBA Preseason Basketball			
ESPN2	SportCtr	2020 Spikeball		UFC Reloaded			
ESPNC	Football	College Football From Nov. 26, 2011.				College Football	
Food	Beat Flay	Christmas Cookie		Christmas Cookie		Christmas Cookie	
Fox News	The Story	Tucker Carlson		Hannity (N) CC		The Ingraham Angle	
Fox Sports	NBA Preseason Basketball				Inside	Spartans	Spotlight
Freefrm	5:50 ★★★ Home Alone ('90)	:20 ★★ Home Alone 2: Lost in New York ('92, Children's) Macaulay Culkin, Joe Pesci. CC					
FX	Equalizer	FX's A Christmas Carol Scrooge has a dark night of the soul. CC					
Golf	LPGA	LPGA Tour Golf CME Group Tour Championship, First Round.					
Hallmark	Christmas Hou	Christmas Comes Twice ('20) Tamera Mowry-Housley, Michael Xavier. CC				A Nashville Christmas Carol ('20)	
HBO	World & Me	★★★ Billy Elliot ('00, Drama) Julie Walters, Jamie Bell, Jamie Draven. CC				Bee Gees: How Can You Mend	
History	Swamp	Swamp People: Ser		Swamp People: Ser		:03 Swamp People	
HGTV	Flip	Flip.-America		Flip	Flip	Hunters	Hunt Intl
Learning	Stories	Untold Stories of ER		Untold Stories of ER		Untold Stories of ER	
Lifetime	Christmas Vine	Rediscovering Christmas ('19) Jessica Lowndes, Jessica Walter. CC				:03 The Christmas Temp ('19) CC	
MSNBC	ReidOut	All In With		Rachel Maddow		The Last Word	
MTV	Delicious.	Jersey Shore		Delicious.	Delicious.	Ridic.	Ridic.
NBCSCH	Footvol	White Sox Rewind From Sept. 26, 2020. (N)					
NFL	NFL Pregame		NFL Football: Chargers at Raiders				
Nick	Top Elf	All That	Un	Sheldon	Sheldon	Friends	Friends
NGEO	Life Be	Life Below Zero		Life Below Zero (N)		Cursed Places-Map	
Oxygen	:00 Snapped	Buried in the Backyard (N) CC		Injustice With Nancy Grace		Snapped A husband disappears. CC	
Parmt	:00 ★★ Con Air ('97) Nicolas Cage.				★★ The A-Team ('10)		
Showtime	Shameless	:05 ★★ The Gentlemen ('20) Matthew McConaughey, Charlie Hunnam. CC				Your Honor "Part Two" CC	
Starz	6:53 ★★ The Notebook ('04) Ryan Gosling. CC			★★ Jumanji: The Next Level ('19) Dwayne Johnson, Kevin Hart. CC			
STZENC	:07 ★★ Radio ('03) Cuba Gooding Jr., Ed Harris. CC			★★ XXX: State of the Union ('05) Ice Cube. CC			:44 Hellboy
SyFy	5:55 ★★ Red 2 ('13) Bruce Willis.	:29 ★★ The Day After Tomorrow ('04, Action) Dennis Quaid, Jake Gyllenhaal, Ian Holm. CC					
TBS	Big Bang Theory	Big Bang Theory	Big Bang Theory	Big Bang Theory	Big Bang Theory	Big Bang Theory	Big Bang Theory
TCM	MGM Parade	★★★★ Going My Way ('44, Musical) Bing Crosby, Barry Fitzgerald. CC				:15 ★★★ King of Kings ('61)	
TMC	Rosemary Baby	★★★ District 9 ('09, Science Fiction) Sharlto Copley, Jason Cope. (P). CC				★★ Captive State ('19) CC	
TNT	:00 Bones	★★ A Christmas Carol ('99, Fantasy)				A Christmas Carol	
Travel	Ghost	Ghost Adventures "Trapped in Death" (N)				Ghost Adventures	
TV Land	Andy G.	Raymond	Raymond	Raymond	Raymond	Raymond	Raymond
USA	Chrisley Knows	Chrisley Knows	Chrisley Knows	Chrisley Knows	Chrisley Knows	Chrisley Knows	:31 Miz & Mrs
VH1	Martin	★★ The Family That Preys ('08) Kathy Bates.					Love
WGN-A	Last Man Standing	NewsNation (N) (L) CC		NewsNation (N) (L) CC		NewsNation (N) (L) CC	

Ex comes back for a second chance after being rejected

DEAR ABBY: My ex had a prior relationship with my cousin "Earl." When she talked about her past relationships, a common theme emerged. Her partners were emotionally abusive – cheating, berating her, throwing rage fits where they screamed in her face and threw things. My own history is similar. My partners have done the same to me. (I do not engage in such behavior.)

Jeanne Phillips
Dear Abby

Earl told her he still has feelings for her, despite the emotional abuse he had inflicted upon her. I confronted him and told him that what he did was inappropriate. Abby, when she heard about it, she dumped me and tried to get back together with Earl!

My cousin, having done work to remedy his issues, rejected her outright. He told her it would never work between them despite the lingering feelings. Now she has come back to me, saying she wants a serious relationship. Should I take her back? – So Mixed-Up

DEAR SO MIXED-UP: Heck no. This woman has made clear that you are her second choice. Please don't take her up on her offer. You can't fix what's wrong with this very mixed-up woman, and you shouldn't waste your time trying because if you do, she will only cause you more pain.

DEAR ABBY: My husband is smart, hard-working and a wonderful father to our young son. We hope to grow our family. However, my husband is a cigarette smoker and extremely defensive about any suggestion about him possibly quitting.

Both of his parents passed away from cancer relatively young, and his mother was a smoker, too. I'm terrified he will get sick and die young. Not only that, he constantly misses precious moments with our son, who stands at the window and cries when he sees his father go outside. I'm becoming resentful of the constant breaks he takes while I sit inside comforting our son.

I have tried reasoning with him and suggesting we ask a doctor for help, but he shuts me down and gets angry. How can I try to approach it again? – Anti-Smoker In Colorado

DEAR ANTI-SMOKER: You fell in love with an addict. Your husband is addicted to tobacco and appears not to understand or care about how it may affect himself or you and his son in the coming years. My advice would be to stop pressuring your husband for now and ask your doctor to refer you to a support group for friends and family members of people with a smoking addiction.

DEAR ABBY: A man and a woman liked (and loved) each other in their teenage years, but they married different people. After a decade, the man sends wedding anniversary wishes to the woman on Facebook. Without any reply, the next day the woman blocks the man, and on the second day she deactivates her account on FB. What does it mean? – Mystified In The Middle East

DEAR MYSTIFIED: It means the long-ago chapter of your storybook teen romance is over. She has moved on and so should you.

Dear Abby is written by Abigail Van Buren, also known as Jeanne Phillips, and was founded by her mother, Pauline Phillips. Contact Dear Abby at www.DearAbby.com or P.O. Box 69440, Los Angeles, CA 90069.

Readers comment on shielding kids from marriage problems

Adapted from an online discussion.

DEAR CAROLYN: It turns out I didn't shield my son from the fallout from my marriage as well as I thought.

Even though he was only 6 at the time, he picked up on the fact that when his father came back into our lives, I was fearful of him and our dog hated him. My son never asked me but always wondered and worried about this.

Carolyn Hax

There were a lot of things both children never felt they could ask me. I wanted to protect them from the ugliness, but I guess I made them think it was all a big secret. We're talking openly now and it's helping all of us. – Mom

DEAR MOM: I'm so glad you're getting to these important truths, and it's helping.

Note: This is a follow-up to a previous column (bit.ly/NotSorry 2019), not a question. I've adapted it for the power of its message and the reader responses:

■ This needs to be a public service announcement to all spouses struggling to keep a marriage together for the sake of the children.

■ I'm a survivor of an abusive family, and the truest truth for me has been the message in "Big Little Lies": Kids see everything. A parent who acts as if nothing happened, "to protect the kids," just exacerbates the situation.

A neighbor once saw me crying in my backyard after my parents loudly fought. The neighbor asked if I was hurt; I wasn't and replied thus. That was the whole encounter, but I felt seen and cared about for the first and only time. It was comforting.

No one in my family has ever discussed the constant fighting. Not one single time, even after half a century has passed.

■ I'm a family therapist, and if I had a dollar for every parent's eureka moment of "It turns out I didn't shield my [child] as well as I thought," I'd be a retired family therapist. Kids might not know every detail, but they know something is wrong. Talk to them.

■ It is human nature to try to find reasons for things, and kids have only their own experiences and emotional maturity to work with in the absence of better information.

Kids tend to think things are about them that aren't, for instance. Or they might assume that if daddy is mad all the time, mommy must be at fault, or any number of other things. Meanwhile, they're alone with their anxiety and fear.

What they come up with to explain the family dysfunction won't be as useful to them as something that bears more resemblance to reality.

■ As someone whose mother told her almost everything about the problems with her father, I say be cautious about what you reveal and make sure the kids know it is not their problem to solve. My mother took it way too far and I am still struggling with the consequences.

■ "Kids are keen observers but poor interpreters." I can't remember where I read that – PEP [Parent Encouragement Program] materials, maybe? – but it has stuck with me. They see more than we think they do, but they can't interpret it unless we help them.

DEAR READER: It's attributed to psychiatrist Rudolf Dreikurs. But yes to the PEP, pepparent.org as a resource, especially if family therapy is inaccessible or cost-prohibitive.

Email Carolyn Hax at tellme@washpost.com, follow her on Facebook at www.facebook.com/carolyn.hax or chat with her online at noon each Friday at www.washingtonpost.com.

CROSSWORD

ACROSS
1 Coral island
4 Little bit
7 Take a toll on
10 Galleon cargo
11 Egg parts
13 St.
14 Turn sharply
15 Apportion
16 Wk. starter
17 Summer flower
19 Justice Kagan
21 Small guitar
22 Floor
23 Fixes a shirttail
26 Most crowded
30 Lotion ingredient
31 Danson or Kennedy
32 Untruth
33 "Early Start" airer
34 Yes, in Kobe
35 Elcar or Carvey
36 More convenient
39 Crews
40 — Kippur
41 "That's obvious!"
42 Gulf nation
45 Obscured
48 Roulette bet
49 Bits of gossip
51 Ovid's 14
53 Musical notes
54 Dugout
55 Alias
56 Chemical suffix
57 Large receptacle
58 Convened

DOWN
1 Kissin' kin
2 Grand Canyon st.
3 Hindu mystic
4 Angelina —
5 Earthenware jar
6 Boxing win
7 Not at all wild
8 Cosmetics brand
9 Lawless role
11 Pulls hard
12 Burgoo and daube
18 Microwave
20 Luau keepsake
22 German import
23 Dashboard gadget
24 Bone below the elbow
25 Mass. neighbor
26 Forest animal
27 High spirits
28 Turn state's evidence
29 Crumpet companions
31 The other guys
35 Actress Arlene —
37 Apply henna
38 Column order
39 Pretense
41 Imp
42 Nostalgic time
43 Ideal spot
44 Inventory wd.
45 "I came," to Caesar
46 Cram cause
47 Levee
50 Indent key
52 Winery feature

Answer to Previous Puzzle

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JUMBLE

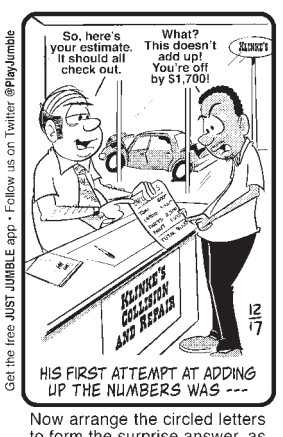
Unscramble these Jumbles, one letter to each square, to form four ordinary words.

GRAWE

NFETO

CLTKOE

LRXYUU


So, here's your estimate. It should all check out.
What? This doesn't add up! You're off by $1,700!
KLINKE'S COALITION AND REPAIR
12/17
HIS FIRST ATTEMPT AT ADDING UP THE NUMBERS WAS ---

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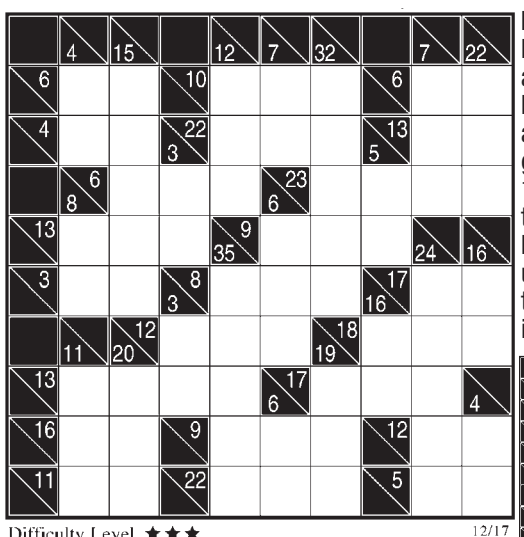
Now arrange the circled letters to form the surprise answer, as suggested by the above cartoon.

(Answers tomorrow)

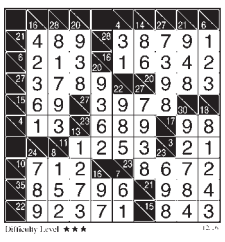
Yesterday's Jumbles: SHIFT MOUND OPPOSE MOTIVE
Answer: The difference between the sounds made by the cows and the bulls was a — "MOO" POINT

KAKURO



Difficulty Level ★★★ 12/17

How to play: Numbers above the slash are across clues; numbers below the slash are down clues. The goal is to enter digits 1-9 in the white cells to add up to the number clues. You cannot use any digit more than once when adding up to a clue.



BRIDGE

George Szell, a conductor, was in the United States on his way back to Europe from Australia when World War II broke out. He never left. He said, "Conductors must give unmistakable and suggestive signals to the orchestra, not choreography to the audience."

A bridge defender must give unmistakable signals to his partner, not worry about kibitzers.

Most bridge players are best at declarer-play, second-best at bidding and 10th-best at defense! To defend well, not only do you need to watch the cards closely and signal accurately to partner, but he must be doing the same, and both of you must be interpreting these cards correctly.

The best defenders use a lot of suit-preference signals. Today's deal shows what is possible. How should the defenders defeat three spades after West leads the club three?

In the auction, if you think West ought to have bid four diamonds over three spades, tune in tomorrow.

East wins the first trick with his club king and cashes the heart ace. West should realize that this is a singleton, so he must signal with his heart 10 under partner's ace, a suit-preference signal for diamonds. East now shifts to the diamond three. West takes that trick with his 10 and leads the heart six. After East ruffs and leads the diamond jack, West overtakes with his king and delivers a second heart ruff to defeat the contract by two tricks; plus 200 to East-West.

Looking for a seasonal present for a bridge player? Give her or him a subscription to Phillip Alder's bridgeforeveryone.com website.

North 12-17-20
♠ A 9 6
♥ J 9 8 4
♦ 9 4 2
♣ J 9 2

West
♠ J 10
♥ 10 6 5 2
♦ K 10 8 5
♣ 10 4 3

East
♠ 8 5
♥ A
♦ A Q J 3
♣ A K 8 7 6 5

South
♠ K Q 7 4 3 2
♥ K Q 7 3
♦ 7 6
♣ Q

Dealer: East
Vulnerable: Both

South	West	North	East
			1♣
1♠	Pass	2♠	3♦
3♠	Pass	Pass	Pass

Opening lead: ♣ 3

SUDOKU

DIFFICULTY RATING: ★★★☆☆

				2	1			5
	7			3				
5	3			9		1	6	
	5			7		9		
7			5	1	9			6
		8		6			4	
	9	7		5			2	4
				8			3	
3			9	4				

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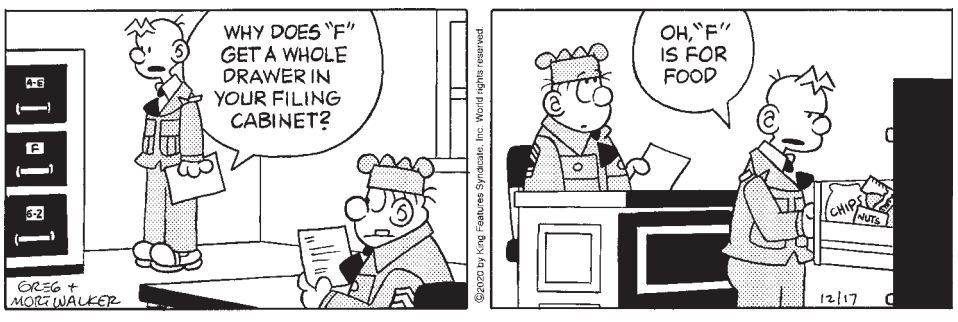
How to play: Complete the grid so that every row, column and 3x3 box contains every digit from 1 to 9.

PREVIOUS SOLUTION

3	9	5	6	4	7	8	2	1
2	1	6	5	8	3	9	7	4
8	4	7	9	2	1	5	3	6
5	3	1	7	9	2	6	4	8
6	7	9	4	3	8	2	1	5
4	2	8	1	5	6	7	9	3
1	8	4	2	6	9	3	5	7
7	6	2	3	1	5	4	8	9
9	5	3	8	7	4	1	6	2

BEETLE BAILEY



BLONDIE

DID ANYONE GET A NICE HOLIDAY BONUS THIS YEAR?
I GOT A GIFT CARD TO A SPORTING GOODS STORE
MY BOSS GAVE ME THEATER TICKETS!
I GOT AN ORNAMENT AND A FIST BUMP
WOW, THAT'S BETTER THAN LAST YEAR!
I KNOW!
12-17
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www.Blondie.com

HI & LOIS

AREN'T YOU SUPPOSED TO PUT THE LIGHTS ON FIRST?
I DIDN'T THINK WE NEEDED THEM.
SUNBEAM MAKES IT SPARKLE.
HIandLois.com
12-17
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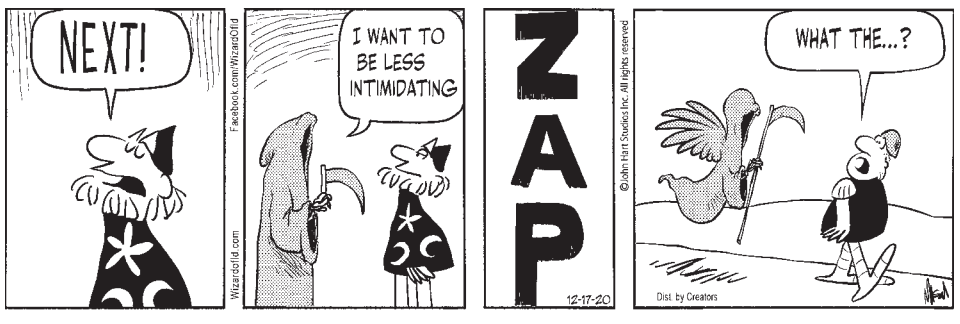
BC

WIZARD OF ID



DILBERT

THANKS FOR WORKING ALL WEEKEND TO GET THE PROJECT DONE, DILBERT.
DILBERT.COM @SCOTTADAMSSAYS
I AWARD YOU TWO MOTIVOSITY BUCKS.
I LIKE REAL MONEY BETTER.
THAT JUST COST YOU TWO MO-TIVOSITY BUCKS.
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GARFIELD

COOKIES AND MILK AT EVERY STOP!
WOOOOOO-HOO!
"SANTA BLOWS HIS DIET" WILL BE RIGHT BACK
GETS TO ME EVERY YEAR
JIM DAVIS
12-17
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Distributed by Andrews McMeel Syndication

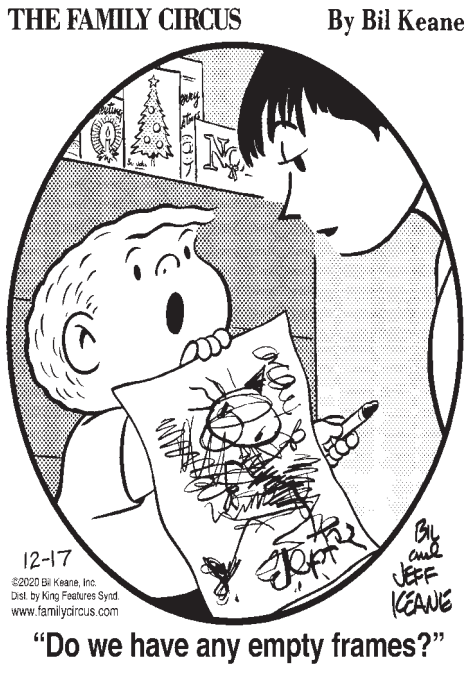
FORT KNOX

I WANTED TO GIVE PEOPLE AT THE SENIOR CENTER LIFE ALERT BRACELETS.
AREN'T THOSE EXPENSIVE?
CAN'T GET UP
YEAH! SO I FOUND A CHEAPER ALTERNATIVE.
TAKE THE FALL
12/17
WHAT'S THAT?
DON'T TRIP, YO.
AIR HORNS.
SHAKE 'N BAKE
© 2020 Paul Jon. Dist. by Washington Post Writers Group

PICKLES

I LOVE CHRISTMAS BUT IT REALLY WEARS ME OUT.
WRITING AND SENDING ALL THE CHRISTMAS CARDS, PUTTING UP THE DECOR-ATIONS, BAKING THE GOODIES, BUYING AND WRAPPING THE GIFTS...
WHAT ARE YOU TALK-ING ABOUT? I'M THE ONE WHO DOES ALL THOSE THINGS!
12/17
I KNOW, AND WATCH-ING YOU DO THEM IS EXHAUSTING!

FAMILY CIRCUS



DENNIS THE MENACE

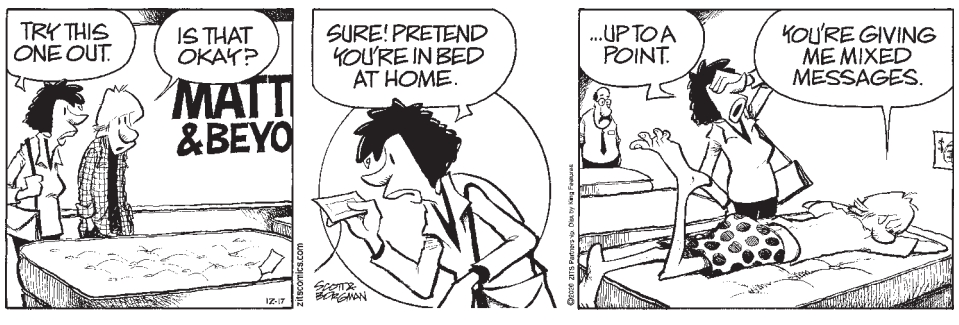
BABY BLUES

IT'S UKULELE CONCERT TIME!
OH BOY.
MAYBE JUST ONE NUMBER, SON. A WHOLE CONCERT MIGHT BRING US TOO MUCH JOY.
I DOUBT IT. I HAVEN'T PRACTICED ANY OF THE SONGS.
GEE WILLIKERS! LOOK AT THE TIME!

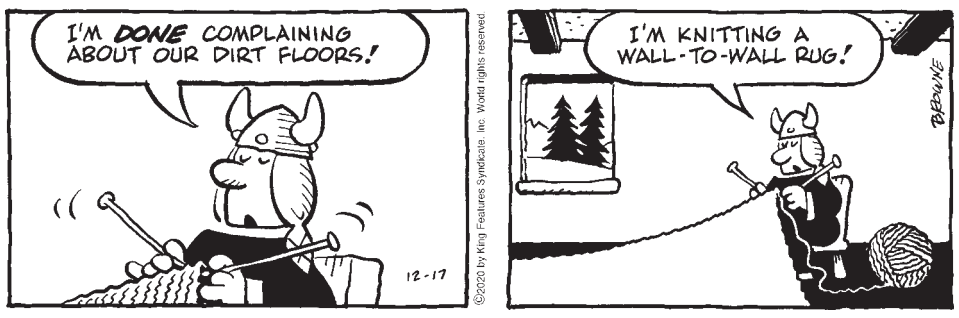
CURTIS

SOB! MY COOKIES BURNT TO A CRISP!
THEY LOOK LIKE CHARCOAL BRIQUETTES
HUSH, CURTIS!
DIANE, HONEY, THEY'RE NOT SO BAD! LOOK! THEY'RE NOT SO
CRUNCH
12-17
I BROKE MY TOOTH
THAT DOES IT!!

ZITS



HAGAR THE HORRIBLE


I'M DONE COMPLAINING ABOUT OUR DIRT FLOORS!
12-17
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I'M KNITTING A WALL-TO-WALL RUG!

MOTHER GOOSE & GRIMM

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MARIAH CAREY'S NEW CHRISTMAS HIT
ALL I WANT FOR CHRISTMAS IS 6 FEET OF SPACE
12/17

MUTTS

'TIS THE SEASON TO BE JOLLY...
FA LA LA LA LA LA LA LA LA
OOPS.
SHE KEEPS FORGETTING THE WORDS.
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SALLY FORTH

OKAY, EVERYONE, LISTEN— I APPRECIATE YOUR, UH, ENERGY AND CREATIVITY. BUT ENOUGH IS ENOUGH...
THIS IS A GINGERBREAD HOUSE. NOTHING MORE THAN THAT. NO PATIO. NO GARAGE. NO PROPERTY-LINE FEUD WITH A NEXT-DOOR LEGO HOUSE.
JUST A NORMAL, EVERYDAY FAMILY-FUN ACTIVITY GINGERBREAD HOUSE, OKAY?
12-17
IS IT AT LEAST HAUNTED?
BY WHAT?
THE GHOSTS OF THE GINGERBREAD MEN WE USED TO MAKE THE BACK WALL AND YEAH, OKAY, THIS GOT TOO DARK EVEN FOR ME.
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The Herald-Palladium

DON'T MISS

THIS WEEKEND'S ISSUE

Included in this Saturday's edition

The Herald-Palladium CLASSIFIEDS

Classified Desk: 1-855-317-4292
Hours: Monday - Friday 8am-4pm EST
Saturday & Sunday 8am-11am EST

REAL ESTATE FOR RENT

Careers are made in the Classifieds… FIND ONE TODAY!

The Herald-Palladium

The Herald Palladium is looking for a reliable person to drive a company owned, 16 foot truck, to deliver newspapers from our local print site to The Grand Haven Tribune in Grand Haven, MI. The position is not responsible for the delivery of individual newspapers to subscribers. Drops are made at two post office locations, as well as, the local newspaper office. Experience operating an electric lift is desired.

This is a third shift position, approximately 3-7am, Tuesday-Saturday. Must have valid driver's license and have a clean MVR.

Job Type: Part-time

To Apply: Contact Bruce
btheisen@heraldpalladium.com
269-429-2400 ext. 553

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Trail Creek, IN
2 Bedroom apartment, very nice & clean, central air, with nice yard, very quiet neighborhood, $600 a month plus deposit, water and sewer included, renters responsible for Nipsco, No Pets first month plus deposit due at signing.
(219) 879-3700

REAL ESTATE FOR SALE

LEGALS

LEGALS

Auction Notice
AUCTION DEC 18 2020 9 AM AT CLOSSONS AUTO REPAIR 2757 W. JOHN BEERS RD STEVENSVILLE MI. 2005 F250 1FTNX21F12EB99257 NEEDS WORK DOES NOT RUN.

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Deadline: Until Filled

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River Valley School District Employment info at: www.river valleyschools.org
Deadline: Until filled

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Home every night.
Good benefits.
Apply at Shelton's Farm Market, 1832 S 11th Street, Niles MI.

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BUYING JUNK
CARS & TRUCKS
Small Cars $200
Medium Cars $300
Large Vehicles $350
Call Larry at
(269)326-0510
Or Scott at
(269)208-9208

WANTED TO RENT/ BUY/TRADE

WANTED
Electrician -
part-time
Call 269-252-6352

PETS

FARM

TRANSPORTATION

People DO Read Small Ads. You Did!

HOROSCOPE

By EUGENIA LAST

THURSDAY, DECEMBER 17

Pay attention to how you present yourself to the world. The little changes you make will fetch compliments this year. Trust in what you know and how you do things before you let someone convince you to do something differently. Take control, offer hope and have a positive attitude.

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 23-Dec. 21) Get busy, stay active and strive to look your best. Take your health and well-being seriously. Refuse to let anyone interfere with your plans or push you to do something costly or debilitating.

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19) Stay calm, relaxed and in control. Be disciplined when faced with a challenge. Anger or aggressive behavior will set you back. Be smart, direct and persistent.

AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 19) Apply pressure when needed. Speak up, state your case and make things happen. Taking an aggressive and passionate approach will affect a situation in dire need of adjustment. Romance is favored.

PISCES (Feb. 20-March 20) Don't get involved in someone's problems. Stay focused on finding opportunities, finishing what you start and doing your own thing. The less you rely on others, the more you'll be able to do.

ARIES (March 21-April 19) Follow your heart, intelligence and intuition. An agreement with someone special will give you the hope and assurance you need to move forward with your plans. Romance is featured.

TAURUS (April 20-May 20) Be careful make a commitment that will be difficult to honor. An emotional situation will lead to a change of heart and a costly endeavor. Don't cut ties with a sure thing unnecessarily.

GEMINI (May 21-June 20) Invest more time in something you want to pursue. An energetic approach will encourage others to help you reach your objective. Make plans with a loved one.

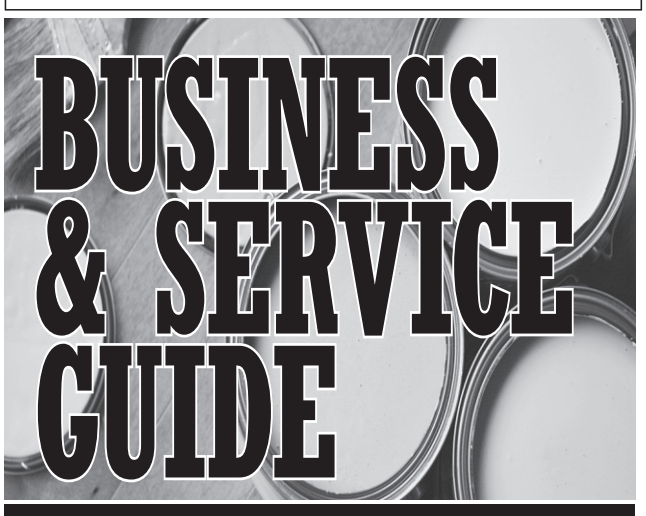
CANCER (June 21-July 22) Limit what you spend. Hard work will pay off. Work alone if it will deter others from interfering with your plans. Rethink your strategy with efficiency and frugality in mind.

LEO (July 23-Aug. 22) You'll have plenty of opportunities if you stick to your game plan. Refuse to let anyone persuade you to take part in something that won't benefit you. It's time to put your needs first and strive to reach your goals.

VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22) The changes you make will be disruptive if you haven't discussed what you want to do with a partner or a family member. Be up-front and get those you care about involved in your plans.

LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 23) Don't let uncertainty take the reins. You have a limited amount of time to make a decision and put your plans in motion. Get what has to be done out of the way as quickly as possible.

SCORPIO (Oct. 24-Nov. 22) Don't let your emotions limit what you can achieve. Look for opportunity and seize the moment. You will encounter individuals who have something valuable to offer. Be creative at all times.



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(A) Reply with your sealed letter Addressed as follows:

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c/o the Herald-Palladium
P.O. Box 128
St. Joseph, MI
49085-0128

If you wish to reply to a box number and NOT have your letter sent to certain firms, then: B) attach a note listing which firms are NOT to receive your letter; and (C) send every thing in ANOTHER E N V E L O P E addressed as follows:

The Herald-Palladium
Classified Department
P.O. Box 128
St. Joseph, MI
49085-0128

If the advertiser is among the names you don't want to contact, we will destroy your sealed letter.

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You may also reply to ads with Herald-Palladium box numbers by e-mail. Do not attach your resume rather type it or copy & paste it directly into your e-mail program. Send your e-mail to: jobs@heraldpalladium.com

If you wish to reply to a box number and NOT have your letter sent to certain firms, then begin your e-mail with any company(s) where you do not wish to apply. Then include the Herald-Palladium box address as shown above.

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To protect our readers, Herald-Palladium policy requires that all companies list their names when placing ads in our publication. Employment advertisers who wish to remain anonymous must rent Herald-Palladium boxes so that we can insure our readers that they are not responding to their current employers or any other company to which they do not wish to apply.

Box Charges
Boxes are reserved for 30 days after last day of ad publication. The charge is:
$10. per box- you pick-up responses.
$15. per box - We fax all responses to you on a daily basis.
$25. per box- We mail responses to you once per week.
When readers respond to your ad via e-mail, we will forward them to you immediately if you provide us with an e-mail address or we will print and handle them in the manner that you request.

The Herald-Palladium

Buy It. Sell It. Find It. CLASSIFIED.

hp OUR TOWN

Have news for 'Our Town'?

Do you have some news about your hometown that you would like to see in the paper? Send it to "Our Town" in care of Features Editor Andy Steinke at The Herald-Palladium, P.O. Box 128, St. Joseph, MI 49085; deliver it to 3450 Hollywood Road; fax it to The HP at 429-4398; or send email to focus@TheHP.com. Timely news about upcoming events should be received two weeks prior to the events.

Rotary Foundation names grant recipients

ST. JOSEPH — The St. Joseph-Benton Harbor Rotary Club Foundation board awarded $65,000 in grants for its 2020 funding cycle this week.

Established in 1980, the foundation has awarded close to $1 million in grants to area causes. 2020 grant funding has been awarded for the following projects:

■ **Berrien County Historical Association:** $8,000 to help cover costs related to the renovation of the 1870s Sheriff's Residence

■ **Berrien Families Plus:** $10,000 to assist in funding 3 WINS (Work Inspires and Nurtures Success), a restitution program for youth offenders involved in the Berrien County juvenile court

■ **Boys & Girls Clubs of Benton Harbor:** $10,000 to support the eLearning Center at the Joel E. Smilow Teen Center, which provides access to technology, educational support programming, and club professionals trained as virtual learning success coaches to area youth

■ **Court Appointed Special Advocates:** $6,250 to recruit, train and support 10 additional volunteers, who will advocate on behalf of 25-30 new foster children in Berrien County, and provide mileage reimbursement to the 37 active CASA volunteers

■ **Feeding America West Michigan:** $7,750 to fund 10 mobile food pantries, which will distribute thousands of pounds of food to communities around Berrien County

■ **Mosaic CCDA:** $10,000 to provide on-site employment experience to graduates of the Jobs for Life program through one of Mosaic Social Enterprises

■ **St. Joseph Today:** $11,000 to support marketing local businesses and to reduce membership fees for businesses in need, allowing them to focus on their missions, their business, their futures and conserve their already constrained resources

■ **SBC Benevolent Ministries:** $2,000 to support purchase of technology needed to assist defendants referred by Berrien County Trial Court for Zoom arraignments to reduce backlog of arraigned cases

To be eligible, a grant request must have been for a minimum of $5,000 and submitted by a nonprofit or governmental unit within St. Joseph or Benton Harbor. Emphasis was given for efforts that seek to provide better opportunities for youth and special needs populations.

Requests for sectarian religious projects and programs, national fundraising efforts, political organizations or funds for program deficits or previously incurred obligations were ineligible.

Grant applications are accepted each fall.

The foundation's resources come from gifts made by Rotarians and other individuals, families, businesses and local organizations. A volunteer board from the club set policy and approve all grants.

For more information about the local chapter, visit www.sjbhrotary.org.

VBDL's Kay McAdam retiring at year's end

DECATUR — After 20 years of employment with Van Buren District Library, Adult Education and Community Relations Coordinator Kay McAdam is retiring from the organization on Dec. 31.

McAdam previously served as branch manager of the Antwerp Sunshine Branch while also managing VBDL's publicity part-time.

She began working on public relations full-time when she assumed her current role in 2018. During her tenure as adult education and community relations coordinator, she strengthened the organization's public relations and community outreach efforts, and planned numerous engaging and informative programs and events for patrons of all ages.

"Kay has left an indelible stamp on Van Buren District Library, which has permanently changed the organization and the way the district library will conduct business in the future," VBDL Director Dan Hutchins said in a news release.

Prior to her employment at VBDL, McAdam held positions as announcer, news reporter and marketing director for radio stations in Indiana and Michigan from 1981-95. She also served as the marketing director and associate director of communications and marketing for Cass District Library in Cassopolis before joining VBDL in 2001.

To honor McAdam and thank her for her years of service to VBDL, the public is invited to a "Mask-A-Rade" retirement party on Wednesday.

Stop by Webster Memorial Branch, 200 N. Phelps St., Decatur, between 9 a.m. and 5 p.m. to wish McAdam a happy retirement. Light refreshments will be served from 2-3 p.m. Attendees are asked to wear a mask and practice social distancing.

For more information, call 423-4771 or email info@vbdl.org.

Van Buren District Library is headquartered in Decatur with branches in Bangor, Bloomingdale, Covert, Gobles, Lawrence and Mattawan.

SPECIAL DELIVERY

Photo provided

Alison Harrop, director of United Christian Services in Paw Paw, accepts a delivery of books that the Van Buren District Library's Friends groups purchased for children in Van Buren County who have limited or no access to a public or school library. The Friends promised to purchase the books if VBDL patrons read 500 books during November's Read to Give Challenge. Patrons logged 790 books. The books are available at the UCS offices and other distribution points in the area. For more information, call UCS at 415-0767 or Bloomingdale Branch Library Manager Cheryl Bull at 621-7601.

Girls Scouts receive $100K from AEP Foundation

The Girl Scouts of Northern Indiana-Michiana has been awarded a $100,000 grant from the American Electric Power Foundation to enhance its focus on science, technology, engineering and math (STEM) programming, according to a news release.

The grant will allow the council to create "makerspaces" at Girl Scout facilities, including Camp McMillen in Huntertown, Ind., and Camp Soni Springs in Three Oaks.

Makerspaces provide hands-on, creative ways to encourage girls to design, experiment, build and invent as they engage in science, engineering and tinkering. A makerspace isn't just a science lab, woodshop, computer lab or art room, but it may contain elements found in all these spaces.

"We are honored to accept this generous donation from the AEP Foundation," Girl Scouts of Northern Indiana-Michigan CEO Sharon Pohly said in the release. "Thanks to support from AEP and other corporate and individual gifts, we will increase and strengthen our high-quality, girl-empowering programs that help give girls a level playing field in STEM careers and prepare them to be the leaders of tomorrow."

"Education is the foundation of brighter futures for our communities," said Janelle Coleman, president of the AEP Foundation. "We are pleased to support learning opportunities for all students, especially girls, in pursuit of STEM education, which hold promise of future innovation."

For more information, visit www.gsnim.org.

PANDEMIC WON'T STOP BELL RINGERS

Photos provided

The pandemic won't get in the way of South Haven Rotarians as they will continue a tradition of ringing bells for the Salvation Army on Saturday. It's an annual project that started in 1982. The bell ringers will be masked and follow COVID-19 outdoor protocols. Beginning at 7 a.m., Rotarians will be outside Golden Brown Bakery on Phoenix Street (until noon) and at both entrances of the South Haven Walmart (until 5 p.m.). Last year, South Haven residents donated $1,500 to bell ringers like Steve Miles (above), Jerry Gruber (below left) and Bob Stickland (below right).

SMC unveils Grady Scholars initiative

DOWAGIAC — Southwestern Michigan College has named 20 new $1,000 minority student leadership-development scholarships after local trailblazer George Grady, according to a news release.

Grady was born in Dowagiac. He enlisted in the Navy after high school and served in Korea before coming home to join the Dowagiac Police Department in 1955. He was promoted to sergeant in 1959, and was named Dowagiac Police Officer of the Year in 1962.

He became Michigan's first Black police chief in 1965. City Manager Edward Simmans said he was a very capable choice whose "men have a lot of respect for him."

Grady, who served as chief until 1974, was 44 when he died of a heart attack in 1977.

"When I walked a beat, I wanted to be the best police officer ever assigned to the job," Grady once said, according to the release. "Now I want to be the best chief."

SMC President Joe Odenwald said, "There are those within the college district who still think SMC is out of their reach. We know that's true because we have about 46 percent of high school students graduating in the Lewis Cass Intermediate School District who aren't attending college anywhere.

Photo provided

Standing with a photo of George Grady are, from left, Barb and Dennis Grady, Joe Odenwald and Beth Cripe.

"The idea," he said in the release, "is to associate this program, which will specifically attract minority students who have demonstrated leadership potential in high school, with someone from our area who was a trailblazer. And, by all accounts, George Grady was."

The scholarships will be competitive and limited, but priority will be given to in-district graduating high school seniors who belong to an underrepresented ethnic group.

"There are expectations with being a part of the program," Odenwald said, "one being that we develop those students' leadership abilities, then those students become RAs, orientation leaders and build upon some of our other efforts in respect to student leadership. We want to see greater diversity in our student leadership, because we believe that when underrepresented prospective students come to the campus, they benefit in seeing diversity in our student leaders and peer mentors. Then those students pass on the torch and go out and recruit the next generation of Grady Scholars."

Chief Grady's son, Dennis, and his wife, Barb, represented his family at the college's announcement of the initiative. Dennis' mother, Cynthia; sister, Deborah; and brother, Ron, live in Allendale.

"I think it's great. I'm very grateful and appreciative. I can't even put it into words. I've waited a long time for my dad to be recognized," said Dennis Grady, who lives in Lansing after retiring in 2003 from a 25-year Michigan State Police career. "He was quiet and didn't say a lot of words, but when he talked, he meant what he said. He was a gentleman who wasn't one to talk about himself."

SMC Dean of Student Development Katie Hannah said a program coordinator would oversee recruiting, retaining, developing and graduating the students in two years.

Recruiting will start in February for the first class of Grady Scholars in fall 2021.

"It's a summer bridge program as well," Hannah said, "so they would begin early. They graduate high school in June and start their SMC classes a couple of weeks later so we can do programming with them. Grady Scholars will live on campus and be able to move in early and participate in our Leadership SMC program over the summer. They will also have priority with on-campus jobs. Other leadership opportunities will be developed for them throughout the year, such as orientation and Welcome Week. Community service is also an important part of this initiative."